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20 PAGES 150 FILS

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1990/SAHABAN 22, 1410 AH

Saudis put a stop to UAE re-exports

ABU DHABI, March 18, (AP): A re-export trade worth \$300 million a year from the United Arab Emirates to Saudi Arabia has been crippled by a Saudi decision, economy officials and traders said today.

The Saudi Ministry of Finance and National Economy issued a regulation restricting imports from the UAE if unaccompanied by a copy of the original bill of lading, as of March 1, the officials said.

Traders in the UAE believed the decision was meant to bring a halt to UAE re-exports to Saudi Arabia "as the Saudi authorities knew we cannot provide them with those certificates," said one of the sources, all speaking on condition they not be named.

"The invoices we receive contain all goods imported and not only those re-exported to Saudi Arabia, and merchants here would not accept to reveal their

foreign trade contacts or the original prices," said the source.

Officials here could not explain the reason for the Saudi move, directed only against re-exports from the UAE, and not any other state.

UAE re-exports to Saudi Arabia have more than doubled since 1985, estimated at around 1.1 billion dirhams (\$300 million) in 1989, the officials said.

The amount is 20 per cent of the total

UAE re-export mostly garments, gold, cement and manufactured goods coming mainly from Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The reported wrangle is between two members of the six-nation GCC.

The GCC countries have yet to develop a uniform customs tariff system and Dubai, which has a free trade zone at Jebel Ali, has the least import barriers. It is the second largest emirate after Abu Dhabi.

(Continued on Page 13)

'Pakistan exploiting Kashmir problem'



Najma Heptullah

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

INDIAN parliamentarian Najma Heptullah has said that India may have a dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir if talks are held within the framework of the Simla Agreement.

The Simla Agreement says that the problem of Kashmir must be resolved bilaterally, without outside interference, and both parties must resist hostile propaganda.

Heptullah, deputy chairman of the Indian Rajya Sabha (Upper House), was on an official visit to Kuwait to deliver a message from Indian Premier V.P. Singh to HH the Amir. She also paid a similar visit to Iraq.

"At a press conference yesterday, she cautioned Pakistan against aggravating the situation in Kashmir saying that the problem in the north Indian state is an "internal affair and not a religious issue."

"We don't want Pakistan to make it a communal issue by (saying) it is a Muslim uprising. It is a Kashmiri demand, and a Kashmiri uprising."

Commenting on a recent statement by Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto, Heptullah said an atmosphere of "hatred is being generated by (such) provocative speeches."

She reiterated India's allegation that Pakistan is supporting the militants with arms and inflammatory rhetoric. "We have evidence (of) blatant exploitation (of) the situation by Pakistan, and arming the terrorists," she said. Pakistan has denied the charges.

She described the situation in Kashmir as "serious" but ruled out another war over the territory despite reported troop movements along the borders of both India and Pakistan.

(Continued on Page 9)

Weather

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light to moderate north-westerly wind.
State of sea: Slight 10 to moderate High water: 6.00 am, 4.00 pm Low water: 11.00 am, 10.00 pm Sunrise: 5.53 am Sunset: 5.59 pm Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 23°C 75°F
Ahmadi: 21°C 70°F
Falkirk: 23°C 73°F Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 13°C 59°F
Ahmadi: 13°C 57°F
Falkirk: 15°C 57°F Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 25°C 77°F
Ahmadi: 23°C 73°F
Falkirk: 24°C 75°F Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 52 per cent Ahmadi: 54 per cent Falkirk: 50 per cent

Conservatives head for massive victory

East Germans vote in first free poll

EAST BERLIN, March 18, (Agencies): The Conservative Alliance for Germany seemed headed for a surprise landslide victory today in East Germany's first free elections, early television exit polls said.

A win for the Alliance in Eastern Europe's first free poll in four decades would force the pace of unification with West Germany. It would also mark a major triumph for West Germany's Christian

Democrat (CDU) Chancellor Helmut Kohl, improving his chances of re-election in his own elections next December.

Within seconds of polling stations closing, exit polls conducted by West German ZDF television and East German television showed the three-party alliance backed by Kohl had almost 50 per cent of the vote.

First computer projections, reported by West German television, mirrored the exit polls. They gave the Alliance for Germany 53 per cent of the vote.



Crisis averted as Lal changes mind

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 18: Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal today withdrew his resignation from the union cabinet, staving off a major political crisis that threatened to engulf India's new three-and-a-half month old government.

Devi Lal's decision not to press his resignation came after Prime Minister VP Singh wrote a two-page letter to him in which he said: "Taking an overall view, I do not accept your resignation from the union cabinet."

Senior party leaders, including front chairman N.T. Rama Rao, made frantic efforts to persuade Lal to stay in office.

Earlier in the day, the parliamentary board of the Janata Dal, the main constituent of the five-party ruling National Front held a brief meeting at

which the issue was discussed. Later, Devi Lal had a long meeting with chief ministers of four states — Chimanbhai Patel of Gujarat, Mulayam Singh Yadav of Uttar Pradesh, Lalit Prasad Yadav of Bihar and Om Prakash Chautala of Haryana — all of whom owe allegiance to the old government.

Devi Lal's decision not to press his resignation came after Prime Minister VP Singh wrote a two-page letter to him in which he said: "Taking an overall view, I do not accept your resignation from the union cabinet."

Singh said in his letter that Devi Lal was one of the main architects of the Janata Dal and had contributed greatly to its success in the elections.

The mandate of the people was clear at least on one point,

(Continued on Page 4)

They gave the Social Democrats (SPD) 21 per cent and the communists 13 per cent.

Television presenters said the exit polls, while broadly pointing to the same result, had a higher than usual margin of error given East Germany's democratic inexperience.

A deadly silence spread across the Social Democrats' election centre as the forecasts putting them a distant second were read out on television.

Party leader Ibrahim Bochne, whose party had an early lead in the campaign and looked set to become prime minister, declined to comment until the actual results were known.

But deputy leader Markus Meckel appeared to concede defeat. "It is clear, if these results are correct, that we are the big losers," he said on television.

The Alliance, which favours rapid unification with West Germany, consists of the local Christian Democratic Union, once a communist satellite, and two new parties, the German Social Union (DSU) and Democratic Awakening (DA).

The Alliance's surge in support came despite the resignation on Wednesday of Democratic Awakening leader Wolfgang Schnur after admitting he had been a Stasi secret police informer.

At the CDU election party supporters were celebrating as if they had already won hands down.

"Sieg sieg sieg (victory)," shouted one young man with cropped hair and an armful of tattoos as another banged his fists on a table screaming: "We've won, we've won."

Owing to Prime Minister Hans Modrow's Communist

(Continued on Page 2)



Train crash

Two freight cars and a passenger coach plunged into a river near Dhaka, killing six people and injuring another 50, railway officials said on Sunday. In the picture people are seen looking at the wreckage of one of the railway carriages. (Reuter wirephoto)

Thirteen perish in Tehran gas blast

TEHRAN, March 18, (Reuter):

A gas explosion killed 13 people, destroyed a four-storey building and started a massive fire in the Iranian capital Tehran today.

The blast also injured many people in the middle class area of central Tehran, some critically, and the Iranian news agency Isna said the death toll was expected to rise.

One witness who was working in a shop about 70 metres away told Reuters: "I saw flames leaping away from the site. After a few seconds the fire receded, then a flame shot out six storeys high."

Rescue workers toiled to shift debris around a massive crater as a crane lifted heavy pieces of masonry.

Isna said: "Firefighters and relief workers are clearing the debris and in view of the rush hour the casualty toll is expected to go up. The blast has left a large crater at the site."

It said the explosion, at 11.30 am (0830 GMT), was caused by a gas leak in an underground gas distribution chamber. It destroyed several cars and gutted at least 15 houses and shops.

One eyewitness said: "One four-storey building has completely collapsed and burnt. Even the steel beams were twisted."

Windows were smashed in buildings up to 50 metres away and curtains were charred or burnt by the blast.

Police cordoned off the area. Staff of Tehran's governor set up temporary offices where local residents filled in forms listing damage to their property.

Supermarket fire kills 15 in Tokyo

TOKYO, March 18, (UPI): Fire

roared through the upper two floors of a five-storey discount department store filled with weekend shoppers in a northern suburb of Osaka today, killing 12 employees and three boys, and seriously injuring six other people, police and fire officials said.

One 12-year-old boy survived a miraculous jump from a fourth-storey window to escape the inferno, they said.

The authorities said the dead were all asphyxiated as they ate lunch in the employees' dining room or played video arcade games in an adjacent area on the top floor of the "Big O" Nagasaki discount department store in Amagasaki city just north of Japan's second largest city of Osaka.

Police and fire officials said the bodies of all 15 victims were found on the upper floor.

They said the three boys who died — believed aged from 10 to 12 — may have succumbed as they played video arcade games.

Police said the dead boys — 10 women and two men — were all found in the employees' dining area.

The smoke engulfed the area so quickly it appeared they had little chance to escape, they said.



DAY BY DAY

SOME GCC countries have allowed Gulf citizens to own property in those countries. Unfortunately, some of these countries have placed obstacles before implementing their decision. They have restricted the size of area that can be owned; another precondition is that the investor must own a private residence which cannot be sold for at least eight years.

Perhaps, other conditions might be added later like if a person wants to sell his property, he must give the property to the municipality or simply donate it to an orphanage and so on...

Why is it so complicated in some GCC states while the property issue is uncomplicated in other member countries? To these countries, we say, if they want to buy the British Queen's palace, now they can, as it has been offered for sale without preconditions.

Zahed Matar

International intelligence agencies deny Bazoft was a spy

LONDON, March 18, (AP): International intelligence agencies have categorically denied Iraq's allegations that executed journalist Farzad Bazoft was a spy, the newspaper he wrote for reported.

But one Conservative lawmaker reiterated his opinion that Bazoft probably worked for Israel and another said the journalist deserved his fate because he knew the risks and possible consequences of what he was doing.

Nearly 200 people, many of them journalists on the weekly Observer newspaper, held a silent, 90-minute vigil outside the Iraqi embassy in West London to protest Bazoft's hanging last Thursday.

A lone pro-Iraqi demonstrator carrying a cloth banner proclaiming "No place for spies and traitors in Iraq" was led away by police after members of the vigil shouted "go home" and "we

don't want you here."

In Moscow, a Soviet television commentator Yevgeny Kiselyov said yesterday that Iraq's execution of Bazoft went against the norms of behaviour in the civilised world.

A Tehran newspaper today described Iranian-born Bazoft, as a mercenary who had sold his pen to the West.

The hardline Jomhuri Eslami said in a commentary titled "The consequence of being a mercenary" that writing had its place but "in the absence of commitment, the writer will sell his honour, reputation, faith, nationality and everything."

Saudi Arabia today backed Iraq's action in executing Bazoft, an official statement in Baghdad said.

Saudi Arabia expressed support for Iraq's measures which were adopted to protect its security.

INTERNATIONAL

Taiwanese rally for reforms

TAIPEI, March 18. (AP): More than 20,000 people rallied in a downtown park today to call for swifter democratic change and to denounce elderly members of the electoral college that will choose Taiwan's president this week.

The protest was the largest demonstration in Taiwan since the lifting of martial law in 1987 and highlighted growing anger with a political system largely dominated by aging members of the ruling Nationalist Party born on mainland China.

200 young Thai workers died in their sleep

SINGAPORE, March 18. (AP): About 200 young Thai workers in Singapore have died in their sleep over the past seven years, it was reported today.

The report in the Sunday Times appeared one day after the Health Ministry said it had asked US health officials to help find out what had caused the deaths of 28 Thai construction workers.

The US Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia informed Singapore that similar cases of sudden death among Southeast Asian refugees have been reported since February 1981. Such deaths have also been reported in Japan, the Philippines and Thailand.

The report said the cause of the deaths is being investigated, but some believe it was linked to the Thai workers eating rice cooked in polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, pipes.

The Health Ministry said yesterday that the first death occurred in 1983 and about 20 deaths have occurred each year since then among the Thai workers.

Khmer Rouge move camps back into Cambodia

O-TAPOK, Cambodia, March 18. (Reuters): Khmer Rouge guerrillas have moved their families back into Cambodia from secret camps in Thailand and are building new rear bases in the forest for their war against the Vietnamese-backed government.

The exodus of about 20,000 women, children, old people and wounded began two months ago and appeared to be completed this weekend, according to the Khmer Rouge and relief officials in the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet.

In O-Tapok, a few steps across the frontier in the

Police said there were about 10,000 protesters, but reporters at the scene estimated the crowd at more than 20,000, many of whom were onlookers.

In a reference to the elderly Nationalists who control the electoral college, protesters shouted, "old thieves, step down" and "people elect the president." Demonstrators beat drums and gongs to galvanize the crowd.

Leaders of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party, which organised the

demonstration, called on President Lee Teng-Hui to dissolve the electoral college, known as the National Assembly, and allow general presidential elections.

The 668 elderly Nationalist deputies in the 752-seat National Assembly were elected on the Chinese mainland before 1949, when they fled to Taiwan after losing a civil war to communist forces.

The deputies, many in their 80s and 90s, have been frozen in office to support the Nationalist claim to still be the legitimate

government of China. They have rejected calls that they retire.

An attempt by some of the deputies to expand the power of the assembly to allow it to annually review laws passed by the legislature has added to public dissatisfaction.

"This park will become another Tiananmen Square if the ruling party still refuses to listen," said opposition party chairman Huang Hsin-Chieh, referring to last year's pro-democracy protests in China.



Female supporters of Taiwan's main opposition Democratic Progressive Party fight with riot police in front of President Lee Teng-hui's residence in Taipei. (Reuters wirephoto)

Japan Socialists move to transform

TOKYO, March 18. (Agencies):

Japan's Socialist Party has

actively implemented a series of

measures to transform itself

from a group of ideology-ridden

leftists into a new populist party.

President Yang Shangkun led

Communist Party and government

leaders into Beijing's Great Hall of

the People for the annual session of

the Chinese People's Political Con-

sultative Conference, which acts as

their advisory body.

The party has given up its

long-standing call for a socialist

revolution, and party officials

say they now seek to turn the party

into a social democratic

party.

He added that so many people

voted for the Liberal Democratic

Party in the parliamentary election

for the lower house Feb. 18

not because they support the

Conservative Party because they

lack confidence in the Socialist

Party because of its radical left-

ist stances.

On Thursday, Socialist Party

leaders agreed to delete its long-

standing call for the "socialist

revolution" from the party's

constitution despite some persist-

ent resistance from the party's

left-wing factions.

Instead, the new constitution

which was drafted Thursday and

expected to be adopted at the

party's convention in early April

clearly defines the party as aim-

ing for social democracy.

It is a clear sign that the

Socialists are trying to present

themselves to the public as a

party trustworthy of controlling

the government," said Satsuki

Eduardo.

The turnout, announced to be

extremely high, after 40 per

cent with turnout high for

the party's

first election since 1945.

Many voters turned out

on their best Sunday clothes.

East Berlin author Stefan

Heym, one of the longest stand-

ing opponents of Stalin's rule in

East Germany, said the results

mean the country would sleep

peacefully and no more than a foot

into history.

At the CDU celebrations, the

moment victory was sealed in

a six-piece

Dixieland band

struck up and party activists

cheered around the dance floor.

Eberhard Diepgen, former

West Berlin mayor and one of

dozens of top West German

politicians who barnstormed

East Germany during the election

campaign, saluted the divided

city to be reunited.

"We fought really hard but we

never thought the momentum of

our party would be so strong

now," he said.

The West German Minister

for Inter-German Relations

Dorothee Wilms said: "This is

a wonderful result and a won-

derful testimony to the leadership

of Helmut Kohl."

The Association of Free

Democrats, twinned with West

Germany's Liberal Free

Democrat junior coalition part-

ners, came from nowhere to repre-

sent six to eight per cent in the

forests.

If this was reflected in actual

results, the Liberals would seem

natural coalition partners for the

Alliance, mirroring Kohl's West

German administration of the

Christian Democrats and Free

Democrats.

One East German citizen

stayed away from the polls and

appeared unlikely to celebrate on

Sunday night.

Erich Honecker, who ruled the country for 18 years until last October and now shelters in the home of a

country pastor while he waits

trial on charges of treason.

Western parliamentarians

invited to observe the elections

said the poll was apparently held

in a free and fair way.

We have the impression that

the preparation and whole

procedure is really fair and free,

said Austrian parliamentarian

Wolfgang Blank, representing

the Council of Europe.

Observers from the European

Parliament, Moscow and

Warsaw — all with some

interest in how the poll goes.

First about the only place

came from a tiny Mongolian

where about 150 residents

of German

could not vote because

their registration cards did not

arrive on time in Ulan Bator, the

official ADN news agency said.

CREAM OF THE CREAM

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ALBA watch...a gift from the heart on Mother's Day

(March 21st 1990)



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INTERNATIONAL

PEOPLE AND PLACES

LANGLEY, British Columbia: Taking ukuleles to Hawaii sounds about as misplaced as shipping coal to Newcastle.

But that is what 25 Vancouver-area students, aged 9 to 19, are doing this week.

"Even though the ukulele is the key instrument in their society — it's as Hawaiian as the grass skirt — the school authorities over there want to learn the Canadian teaching methods we use which are so successful," said Peter Luongo, vice-principal and music specialist at Alice Brown Elementary.

The school has become so skilled at teaching the four-stringed, guitar-like instrument that word has reached Hawaii.

The ukulele, introduced from Portugal into the Hawaiian islands about 1879, was first used in Canadian schools in the maritime provinces about 20 years ago to teach music, he said.

"It came to Langley about 15 years ago and we got some really 'keen kids,'" he said. "I picked up the programme when I came here and developed a senior honour group."

The students have played in concerts across Canada and will play for most of the 10-day trip beginning Thursday.

"We will be given a lot of hospitality but we'll be going to schools that are very meagre compared to ours and I think our students will learn a lot about the other side of Hawaii — it's not all lush hotels," Luongo said. (AP)

NEW YORK: Jean Quigley, the astrologer whose advice to former First Lady Nancy Reagan reportedly set the president's schedule, says she is finished with the Reagans.

"When you're that friendly with someone and they just cut you off it borders on the incredible," Quigley said in an interview in *Entertainment Weekly*'s April issue.

The title of Quigley's new book, *What Does Joan Say?* is what Ronald Reagan is said to have asked his wife after her telephone consultations with the astrologer during the Reagans' White House years.

The disclosure that Mrs Reagan consulted an astrologer made the *Reagan* white house the butt of jokes.

"Why did Quigley write the autobiography and blast her former clients?"

"I felt I had played an important role in the administration," she said. "I had to stand up for reputable astrologers." (AP)



Di shakes hands with a leper during a visit to the Molai leprosy hospital. (Reuter wirephoto)

Korean Spouses reunited

TOKYO, March 18, (AP): A 62-year-old South Korean woman who reunited with her husband who defected to Communist North Korea 40 years ago during the Korean war, press reports said today.

The emotional reunion occurred last night when the woman hugged her 63-year-old husband, Sohn Young-Chong, after handing over a bunch of flowers from his homeland, according to the mass-circulation *Yonhap* Shimbun newspaper.

The *Yonhap* said Sohn left his home as a college student in Seoul and volunteered for the North Korean army in 1950, when the North invaded the South, triggering a three-year war.

He now has another wife and six children in North Korea, according to *Yonhap*, the South Korean news agency. He met his first wife during an officially-organized tour as a North Korean historian.

"Now, I have nothing more to be desired, because I have met my husband thought to be dead," the woman was quoted as saying in the *Yonhap* report.

Yonhap said she was pregnant when her husband left three years after their marriage.

WASHINGTON: Walter T. Riddell, a former member of the Knight-Ridder, Inc., board of directors, who had also run the information service for the Marshall plan in Paris, has died. He was 72.

Riddell died Saturday at his home in suburban Washington, after a long illness. (AP)

LAGOS: British Prince Charles and Princess Diana left Lagos on Saturday to visit a leprosy hospital on the brink of the Sahara desert in northern Nigeria.

The visit to Molai Leprosy Hospital, near the town of Maiduguri, was a special request of the royal couple. (AP)



Mongolia's rock group Honkh

N. Enhbar (left) and S. Tsotsaishan, two members of Mongolia's most popular rock group, Honkh, work on their equipment in a studio March 16. The band's songs are critical of the ruling Communist Party and have been adopted by many new democratic parties as anthems calling for political change. (Reuter wirephoto)

Kangaroo with pacemaker dies

SAN FRANCISCO, March 18, (AP): Skippy, a San Francisco zoo kangaroo that received a pacemaker in a first-of-its-kind operation, has died of complications from a weak heart, zoo officials said.

The 7-year-old red kangaroo died Wednesday at the University of California at Davis Veterinary Hospital, where she had been transferred after the March 5 surgery.

Zoo director Phil Arnold said that even with the pacemaker, Skippy's heart contractions weren't strong enough to move blood through her body.

Veterinarians decided to try a pacemaker when they discovered the animal's heart rate was slow and dropping.

A team of cardiologists led by Dr John Langbert of the University of California-San Francisco Medical School performed the operation. The pacemaker was donated.

"The pacemaker implant was a first for a kangaroo," said Arnold. "We had hoped that the surgery would have prolonged her life and are saddened by the loss."

MERIDIAN, Mississippi: When Hartley Peavey throws a birthday

Peavey expects more than 1,000 guests from all 50 states and several foreign countries to attend the 25th anniversary party for his Meridian-based company Peavey Electronics, famed for its rock 'n' roll amplifiers.

Company spokesman Jerry Hess said Peavey already has booked half of Meridian's 1,400 hotel rooms for the June 12-14 event, and may need more. The Launderdale county tourism commission estimates the party will put \$42,000 into the local economy.

Most guests will be dealers and distributors of Peavey products, which the privately owned company exports to 102 countries. Peavey also has a plant in Britain and distribution centres in Canada and the Netherlands. (AP)

MELBOURNE, Florida: Hundreds of thousands of vacationers are descending on Florida for beer and bikinis, but 17 American University students are spending the week helping to build houses for the needy.

The eight men and nine women who arrived Sunday from Washington, DC, are putting in eight-hour work days, eating at churches and spending the night in sleeping bags on the floor of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

"This group really wants to work," said Jay Willard-Whitford, project director for the South Brevard Habitat for Humanity. "They came with their hammers and tools and their nail aprons. They were all decked out." (AP)

PARIS: A major museum focusing on life in medieval France is to be built next to the historic cathedral in chartres, according to a plan presented Tuesday to Premier Michel Rocard.

Charles Degey Mayor Georges Lemoine said after meeting with Rocard that the museum would feature exhibits dealing with religious art, literature, the crusades, and daily life in the middle ages.

He suggested the museum could be a centre for symposiums on the middle ages and for performances, perhaps including experts of Gregorian chant. (AP)

NAIROBI: Poachers have killed 57 African elephants in just one game park since January, director of Kenyan wildlife services Richard Leakey said Saturday.

Leakey, interviewed by the Standard newspaper, blamed Britain's decision Jan 17, to allow Hong Kong to sell off ivory stocks, for the alarming upsurge in elephant poaching, which further threatens the heavily endangered species. (UPI)

ZURICH, Switzerland: A painting by Vincent Van Gogh valued at \$1.6 million has been reported stolen from a customs warehouse, police said Monday.

"Weed Field with Sheaves," dated 1888, was to be shown to a potential buyer Friday but the safe containing it was found to be empty, police said.

The safe was not damaged, and the frame was found in a nearby closet, they said. (AP)

Beach battle pits nudists against small birds

SOUTH KINGSTOWN, Rhode Island, March 18, (AP): The only frolicking the US government wants on a nude beach in Rhode Island is by a small group of birds whose existence is considered threatened.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has decided that the secluded and popular Moonstone Beach will be off-limits for nude sunbathers this summer in order to protect the tiny piping plover.

Moonstone has been the only spot on the 420-mile (675-km) Rhode Island coast — and one of few along the New England shore — where nudists can sun themselves.

But federal officials and environmental groups say that when humans enter, the piping plover leaves. The bird is listed on the federal endangered species list as threatened, a step away from the designation of endangered.

"The human activity serves as a distraction to the plovers," said James Kurth, manager of the Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge, which includes Moonstone Beach. "They're constantly moved away from their breeding grounds." He cited a University of Massachusetts study more than a decade ago that showed plovers will leave an area where humans congregate.

Nudists see the battle over the bird as a subterfuge to the underlying issue: they claim the government wants beaches in the northeastern United States free of nude sunbathers.

They also say they can coexist with the little bird — and, in fact, have for years.

Accompanied by her British-born mother Antonia, Morgan took seven-year-old Hilary Foreitch to church in Christchurch, where she has lived in hiding since 1988.

Morgan and her ex-husband Eric Foreitch have fought a prolonged and bitter battle for custody of Hilary which has attracted enormous interest in the United States.

A US court jailed Morgan after she refused to allow Foreitch unsupervised visits to Hilary and sent her into hiding. Morgan accuses Foreitch of sexually abusing their



Put it there, pardner!

Adancing monkey shakes hands with children after the show to collect money from them on a Delhi street yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Morgan meets daughter Hilary after 3 years

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, March 18, (Reuter): American plastic surgeon Elizabeth Morgan, reunited with her daughter yesterday after almost three years, took the child to a Sunday church service in the New Zealand city of Christchurch.

Morgan spent more than two years behind bars and was released last September only after President George Bush signed special legislation to free her.

In contrast to the media hue and cry after Foreitch tracked Hilary down in Christchurch last month, only one television crew witnessed Sunday's visit to St. Mary's Anglican Church, where the child and her grandparents are regular parishioners.

"It was a normal Sunday service. There were no special arrangements," said Reverend Blair Robertson, vicar of St. Mary's. Robertson said that he had had no warning that Elizabeth Morgan would be joining her daughter.

Killer bee threatens honeybee business

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana, March 18, (AP): With killer bees approaching US borders, scientists are looking for a slave for the honeybee industry to take the economic sting out of the invasion.

Reports of swarming Africanized bees attacking small children and large animals have bee-keepers worried — not so much about sometimes deadly bites as about the way they earn their living.

"Bees will go out of business ... rather than go through all of this ordeal," said Donald O'Neill, president of the Louisiana Beekeepers Association. "People will not want to let them have locations to place their bees because people are afraid of the Africanized bee."

Much of the research underway at the US Agriculture Department's honeybee breeding, genetics and physiology laboratory at Louisiana State University is focused on protecting the gene pool of the domesticated European honeybee and teaching the public how to avoid the aggressive Africanized honeybee.

Bees help pollinate more than 100 crop plants in the United States, including almonds, apples, watercress and white clover.

"Every third mouthful of food or drink you take is there because of honeybees," said Ward Hellmich, a research entomologist at the honeybee lab.

At the small lab in a pasture dotted with beehives, researchers examine Africanized bees, trying to expose the secrets of genetics, identification and behaviour.

The Africanized bee — scientists dislike the sensational "killer bee" moniker — could wing into Brownsville, Texas, in the next few months. The bees have migrated 200-300 miles (320-480 km) a year.

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INTERNATIONAL

Gorbachev defends his reforms

MOSCOW, March 18, (UPI): Newly empowered Mikhail Gorbachev defended his struggling reform drive, but acknowledged "perestroika" must be pursued with "more dynamism."

Gorbachev, who ran unopposed in the secret balloting late Wednesday at the Congress of People's Deputies, emerged from the election with a comfortable margin of victory Thursday, but hardly an overwhelming mandate.

"I understand how dramatic the situation is, how complicated and unusual the problems are, and how emotionally charged society is, but I do not see any grounds for panic, let alone replacing perestroika

with another policy," Gorbachev said in his acceptance speech.

"It is obvious, however, that perestroika should be radicalised," he said. "And I shall use my presidential powers above all toward this end."

But Gorbachev, who reaffirmed his allegiance to communism, later told reporters not to expect any immediate, dramatic moves.

"The point is not to surprise the world with new initiatives, but to carry out what we have already been doing with more dynamism," he said. "I possess one (main) trait: I remain who I am, and that is the person I will be."

President Bush sent Gorbachev a message of congratulations from Washington, and French President Francois Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl also sent their regards to the Soviet leader.

Gorbachev at his news conference hinted that his June summit with Bush could produce an even larger agreement than the pact the two presidents expect to sign reducing strategic nuclear arms.

Gorbachev's victory was sealed Wednesday when his supporters in the Congress narrowly defeated a bid to force him to stand for direct national elections, approving a measure that sets the first such

presidential polls for 1995.

Gorbachev took office four days after a new nationalist-dominated parliament in Lithuania declared the republic independent. He also faces secessionist sentiment elsewhere in the Baltic region, and other parts of the vast country have been torn by ethnic clashes.

After Gorbachev's swearing in, the Congress of People's Deputies passed a resolution declaring Lithuania's independence declaration Sunday "null and void" and saying "the sovereignty of the Soviet Union and its constitution continue to extend to the territory of Lithuania as a constituent socialist republic."

Maggie won't give up

'I'll fight every inch of the way' to win polls

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): A defiant Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, under pressure from inside and outside her Conservative Party, launched a determined counter-attack against her critics today and vowed to fight on as Britain's leader.

Despite opinion polls showing the party is heading for its worst by-election defeat in more than half a century next Thursday, she pledged to "fight every inch of the way" to win a fourth successive general election victory.

Thatcher and the Conservative Party, in power since 1979, are losing support because of unpopular economic policies and worries about reforms of the state-run national health service.

Inflation remains stubbornly high, despite a tough policy of high interest rates, and a new local tax — the community charge or "poll tax" — has provoked nationwide protests that have often degenerated into near-riots.

The annual budget, unveiled next Tuesday by Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major, is seen as crucial for the government's future prospects.

Thatcher acknowledged the government was now unpopular because of high interest rates and the poll tax but insisted her policies were right.

"This is not a poor country," she said.

Opinion polls today showed the Conservatives face a crushing defeat by the opposition Labour Party in next Thursday's by-election in the Mid-Staffordshire constituency.

A survey in the Independent on Sunday newspaper said 56 per cent would vote Labour against 26 per cent for the Conservatives who won the seat comfortably in the last general election in 1987.

A second poll in the Sunday Times showed Labour with 55 per cent and the Conservatives with 29 per cent.

Political analysts believe the Conservative's economic policies are losing them many of their natural supporters, particularly among the skilled working classes.

Press reports last week said as many as a quarter of Conservative Members of Parliament wanted Thatcher to step down before the next election.

A former defence secretary, Michael Heseltine, is mounting a thinly disguised campaign for the future party leadership although he has said he will not challenge Thatcher.

Thatcher dismissed rumours of a plot to overthrow her by a dissident group of Conservative Members of Parliament.

"I do not believe there are many doing that," she said. "The majority have stayed remarkably loyal."

But a senior Conservative confirmed the party was looking to possible changes in the way it elects its leader following an unsuccessful but embarrassing challenge of Thatcher from within the party last year.

Crisis averted as Devi Lal changes mind

(Continued from Page 1)

and that was that we all work together and don't fall apart. The people will never excuse us if we fail them. Insidious attempts are going to sow seeds of dissension amongst us so as to bring down this government which was functioning smoothly so far and had started implementing its election pledges with vigour and in right earnestness," the letter said.

The prime minister said the party should not allow such plans to succeed. "At the same time, we have to live up to the norms of public life that people expect of us and fulfil their aspirations. Taking an overall view," he said.

Singh also referred to several points raised by Devi Lal in a long letter he sent to the prime minister Friday an hour after he resigned from the cabinet.

The letter gave the impression that Devi Lal's action was not abrupt but the result of a series of decisions calculated to sidetrack and humiliate him. "Ever since I became deputy prime minister, you considered me not as a colleague but as a liability," it is reported to have said.



Larga crowds gather to wave Lithuanian flags and banners in front of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet in Vilnius. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reformers may control 5 Soviet republics

Polls trouble brewing

Soviets woo Lithuanians

MOSCOW, March 18, (UPI): Soviet Army helicopters dropped thousands of leaflets yesterday on the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, saying the parliament's recent declaration of independence does not represent the will of the Lithuanian people.

The parliament appealed again to "the governments of democratic nations" to recognise Lithuania as a free country, saying such recognition would be "an important sign of political and moral support."

President Vytautas Landsbergis informed parliament of Soviet troop movements in eastern and southern Lithuania, according to Roman Sakadokis, a Voice of America radio correspondent who spoke with United Press International by phone from Vilnius.

"There are manoeuvres of troops in southern Lithuania," Landsbergis told UPI by phone after the parliament session. "Soviet troops are also visible in the eastern part of Lithuania. And we have received reports of the transfer of paratroopers from one region to another."

The alleged troop movement could not be confirmed independently, and the reason for the claimed manoeuvres was unknown.

The reported activity came one day after Soviet President sent Landsbergis a message giving him until tomorrow to respond to a Moscow resolution branding the March 11 independence declaration "null and void" and declaring that Soviet laws still operate in Lithuania.

Soviet television said thousands of people in Vilnius rallied in support of their new government. The official Tass news agency said "many thousands" in the fellow Baltic republic of Latvia demonstrated in the capital of Riga to demand the election of nationalists today in scheduled polls.

President Gorbachev denied today he had imposed an ultimatum on Lithuania over its declaration of independence and renewed his offer to hold talks with the rebellious Baltic republic. Deputies from Lithuania headed to Moscow today to answer his call to rescind the move.



Opera house opens

France's new national opera house, plagued by financial problems, technical headaches and artistic squabbles, staged its grand opening nine months late on Saturday with a glittering capacity audience and a near disaster.

The audience gasped as singers in the Bastille Opera house crouched in horror when a huge prop crashed into a steel curtain sending splinters flying onto the stage below during the opening-night performance of a neglected work by 19th century French composer Hector Berlioz.

People gather near the Bastille Opera at the official opening with Hector Berlioz's opera 'Les Troyens.' The woman on right holds the programme as she queues up in line. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mongolia leaders promise elections

ULAN BATOR, March 18, (AP): A leading instigator of Mongolia's leap toward democracy, a graduate student named Zorig, wore only the slightest of smiles on what appeared to be a day of great triumph for his four-month-old opposition movement.

The ruling Communist Party's new leaders — replacing those whom the opposition successfully demanded resign — had just promised multi-party elections for the first time in Mongolia's history.

"It was just as I expected," Zorig said. "They have to reform."

But now his fledgling Mongolian Democratic Party and three other opposition parties face a new problem: deciding if the Communist Party is sincere or is merely trying to coopt and control the opposition by adopting its slogans of democracy and human rights.

On the surface, the forces of reform appear to have swept through Mongolia's Stalinist political system as swiftly and surely as national hero Genghis Khan's warriors swept through Central Asia in the 13th century in Mongolia's last glory days.

In the space of a week, the Mongolian People's Party renounced its constitutional guarantee of power, scheduled a full party congress to make more leadership changes and promised to work on equal terms with opposition groups that want democracy and market-style economic reforms.

It agreed to hold a referendum on the legitimacy of the current legislature, which rubber stamps party decisions, and draft a new election law. President Jambyn Batmönkh and Prime Minister Dumaagaa Sodnom offered to resign, and the legislature may accept their resignations next week.

But the apparatus of 69 years of communist rule remains in place. No one has suggested dismantling the dread committee of public security, Mongolia's KGB.

It is not clear if old rules, such as the ban on proselytising outside Mongolia's one remaining Buddhist monastery, still hold.

Nor is it clear if the ousted leaders are really gone. A hot topic among Mongolians was whether they would retain their official salaries.

The new party secretary-general, Bambogayn Ochirbat, said Thursday it was too early to set forth specific reform plans, although he spoke in broad terms of improving economic efficiency. He stressed that Mongolia should remain socialist.

Some opposition activists suspect the communists have agreed to reform only as a realistic concession to the democratic forces sweeping the Soviet bloc, to which Mongolia belongs. The party's real intent, they fear, is to retain their power.

As proof, they report that when the Mongolian Democratic Party began a hunger strike last week, the move that triggered the leadership shuffle, the army was put on alert, although bullets were not issued.

The strike started Thursday, a day after the death of a prison clerk shot by suspected Basque separatists on a San Sebastian street. (AP)

Prison workers strike: A strike by prison workers demanding greater security against Basque separatist attacks spread to 50 of the nation's 83 prisons on its third day, prison officials said.

The National Prison Bureau said police forces had taken over from strikers at half the 50 affected prisons, while small groups of staff members maintained minimum services at the others.

At some prisons, inmates protested delays in food and medical service and cancellations of family visits.

The strike started Thursday, a day after the death of a prison clerk shot by suspected Basque separatists on a San Sebastian street. (AP)

Former dissidents meet: A dream Vaclav Havel cherished through years of persecution came true Sunday when about 2,000 members of Charter 77, Eastern Europe's oldest human rights movement, met for the first time.

"For many years I had a dream," Havel, who was elected President Jan 29 after years of imprisonment, said in brief opening remarks. "I had this dream when I was free, but more often when I was in prison."

"It was a dream that all signatories of Charter 77 would meet one day in some Prague hall, and will talk without being disturbed by the police. This dream, this archetypal vision, is being fulfilled today," he said. (AP)



Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel met leader of Polish Solidarity Lech Walesa on the Czechoslovak-Polish border in Karkonosze hills. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pledge to bring Europe closer

Havel, Walesa meet

KARKONOSZE NATIONAL PARK, Czechoslovakia, March 18, (AP): President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia and Solidarity leader Lech Walesa pledged yesterday to bring Europe closer together at their first meeting in the mountains — where the opposition of both countries forged a friendship years ago.

"It is a good thing that these two men finally meet," said Bronislaw Geremek, a Polish historian and leader of the Solidarity caucus in parliament.

Walesa had declined an opportunity to meet Havel during the Czechoslovak President's official visit to Poland in January, and the current meeting was expected to lead to an exchange of views on the future of Europe.

Hundreds of Czechoslovak and Polish tourists swarmed

around helicopters that brought Havel and Walesa to the top of the Sniezka mountain for their meeting.

During the late 1970s, members of Czechoslovak human rights movement Charter 77 and the Polish Committee for the Defence of Workers began meeting in the mountains that straddle the border.

Those meetings were interrupted in 1981 by the imposition of martial law, which crushed Solidarity and landed many of the Polish participants in jail at a time when Havel and other Czechoslovak activists were also serving time for political activities.

A joint communiqué issued

after the three-hour meeting on the Czechoslovak side of the border called for the two sides to "co-ordinate our striving not only for democracy and order in

our countries but also for our return to Europe as a friendly union of free nations and democratic independent countries."

The two sides pledged to meet to co-ordinate the "struggle from totalitarianism to democracy."

They also indirectly addressed the issue of German unity and called for a confirmation of the existing borders of Europe.

In a packed news conference in a hotel on the Polish side of the border, Havel, a playwright and veteran dissident elected president of Czechoslovakia on Dec 29, offered a clear vision of how he perceived the "return to Europe" of countries suppressed by post-war totalitarianism.

"Smaller nations will not be afraid of bigger nations anymore and the big nations will not have to rival each other," he said.

Warsaw Pact treaty foreign ministers pose for a photograph in Prague. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fail to agree on German alignment

Warsaw Pact in a fix

PRAGUE, March 18, (AP): Warsaw Pact foreign ministers reflecting the new diversity of an alliance once dominated by Moscow, failed yesterday to agree whether a united Germany should be neutral or in Nato.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze stood alone in ruling out Nato membership for the united Germany, Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry spokesman Lubos Dobrovsky said.

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, who with President Vaclav Havel advocates dissolution of both Nato and the Warsaw Pact, fledged out that vision in a speech to the closed-door session.

Dienstbier proposed a "pan-European security agreement" policed by a new European security commission.

The basis of the agreement should be that "nobody can

attack anybody else" and that all signatories agree to provide aid, including military help, if any signatory does come under attack, Dienstbier told the meeting.

The text of his speech was later released to reporters.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn, who declined to talk to reporters, was said to be among those advocating a possible role for Germany in Nato, officials at the meeting said.

Horn caused a stir last month by suggesting that Hungary might eventually join Nato. His statement was swiftly watered down by military and other officials, and Horn last week said he could envisage eventual convergence of Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

In his own comments to reporters, Shevardnadze stressed that the main question concerning a united Germany should be that neutrality would be "the worst alternative."

Participants insisted the meeting was intended to discuss German unity and its impact on Europe, rather than to reach agreement on complex new designs for the security of the world's best-armed region.

Consensus emerged that Nato and the Warsaw Pact, while outmoded, will exist for some time, altered gradually by German unification and Eastern Europe's dash to democracy.

Discussing the security alternatives for a united Germany, Dienstbier said some nations opined that neutrality would be the "worst alternative."

Poland's elections

Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki said on Sunday that post-war Poland's first fully democratic local elections would be held on May 27, the official Pap News Agency said.

"This will be one of the major political events of the year," Mazowiecki told representatives of Solidarity-backed Citizens Committees meeting in Warsaw.

"There can be no democratic state without true local democracy," he added.

Under a government reform programme the democratically-elected councils will be granted broader autonomy to manage local affairs which were previously controlled by Warsaw. (Reuters)

Polish prizes worth: This year's Nobel prize will each be worth four million Swedish crowns (\$656,000), an increase of 30 percent.

Sig Rasmussen, managing



Fighting flares

US-backed rebels, who have resisted appeals to lay down their arms following national elections, have clashed with government troops, and three of the rebels were killed, the Defence Ministry said in Managua. A military spokesman said the rebels, known as Contras, had attacked Sandinista Army troops on Friday at El Ojoche hill in Rio-San Juan province, 180 miles southeast of Managua. Among the slain rebels was a commander, Hilario Salomon Valasquez Romero, known as Karale, according to a source in Juigalpa, the main city in the region where the fighting occurred. Widow Nubia Nufiez watches with one of her four children as two friends help her stake out a lot on an empty area of government land in Managua. Many poor Managua residents are currently staking out plots of land in the hope that they will gain ownership before the change of government under legislation to be discussed this week by National Assembly. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Floods force out 1,500 people: Muddy floodwaters filled a southern Alabama courthouse, submerged a school and forced at least 1,500 people out of their homes after a levee burst Saturday under the strain of 16 inches of rain in two days.

"I have a feeling when I go back everything I own will be gone," said Debra Samuel, who fled her home near the flooded Pea river.

Also in Alabama, six people drowned when their car ran off a back road into a rain-swollen creek where a bridge had washed out, while a Georgia woman died after she apparently drove into a creek and her car was washed away.

Most of western Georgia was under flood warnings Saturday although rain had finally tapered off after a two-day deluge. In Mississippi, about 35 homes were flooded in Jackson county and several roads were washed out after 14 inches of rain fell in two days, officials reported.

No injuries were immediately reported in Elba, a town of 4,400 about 70 miles (113 km) southeast of Montgomery, where the earthen levee gave way. A.M. Rescuers in boats plucked residents from rooftops and trees as the waters rose, said sheriff Brice Pauk. (AP)

Chemical spills into Delaware river: Up to several hundred gallons of a hazardous chemical spilled from a tanker into the Delaware river during unloading Saturday morning, forcing the evacuation of about 200 people.

Five workers at a pier near the spill site were treated at a hospital for headaches and nausea from breathing the fumes of the solvent xylene, authorities said.

US coast guard Petty Officer Richard Mittich said the spill occurred when a Norwegian tanker, the Jo Rogn, was unloading the chemical and some of it slipped onto the dock. Some of the spill was contained on the ship but an undetermined amount of the chemical got into the river.

"I heard a sizzle and when I opened the door there was smell: an odour like plastic," said Marie Sexton, who lives three blocks from the spill site. She and her three children were among the evacuees.

Cutene, often used in nail polish remover, is hazardous if inhaled, ingested or absorbed through the skin in large quantities, coast guard officials said. It can also pose a fire hazard. (AP)

Fire erupts at refinery: Firefighters worked Saturday night to douse a petroleum tank blaze at a refinery where an explosion six years ago killed 17 people.

There was one minor injury reported during the fire at the Unocal Corp.'s chemical division refinery, and emergency disaster officials said it could take nearly a day to extinguish the blaze.

The fire, which broke out at 6 pm (2300 GMT), was brought under control around 8:30 pm but could take up to 20 hours to completely put out, said Lynn Behringer, a spokeswoman for the region's emergency services and disaster agency.

"The flames are about 20 to 30 feet (8 metres), on the air," a neighbour, Joseph Dunk, said earlier. "They are blowing up very high because of the gusts that are really bad, and there's also really thick black smoke out there."

The burning tank held 250,000 barrels of an oil-gasoline mixture, Behringer said. (AP)

Spy satellite falling apart: A \$500-million satellite that was launched less than a month ago to spy on the Soviet Union has started falling apart, according to a Soviet report that US refused to confirm Saturday.

The report by the Novosti news agency said four orbiting fragments were spotted on March 7 that "presumably separated from the American spy satellite."

A US space agency official said such fragments can be non-essential pieces such as protective "shrouds." But the Washington Post on Saturday said members of Congress and the intelligence community were told the satellite had suffered a malfunction.

There was disagreement in Washington over the impact of such a loss of data-gathering capability, especially in light of eased tensions between the two superpowers. (AP)



Bomb, fire gut DEA office

A building leased by the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration was gutted by a large firebomb thrown through a window, authorities said. There were no injuries reported in the bombing early on Saturday.

Investigators from several federal agencies were working together to identify suspects but refused to say whether they had any.

Television network ABC reported on Saturday night that a man indicated last week in a drug case had threatened to destroy the office in this southwestern Florida city.

Federal officers investigate the bombing that destroyed the US Drug Enforcement Administration office in South Fort Myers. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bush to accept big defence cut

\$11b slash likely: Times

NEW YORK, March 18. (UPI): President Bush will accept cuts of up to \$11 billion in the 1991 defence budget, tripling an earlier proposal and coming close to figures being proposed in Congress, the New York Times reported today.

The Times, quoting unnamed senior government officials, said Bush was willing to accept cuts of \$10 billion or \$11 billion, about three times the \$3.2 billion to be proposed in January.

Bush's acceptance of larger cuts is a critical development in the unfolding debate over how the government will deal with the virtual collapse of the Warsaw Pact as a military entity.

Such cuts would put the 1991 budget at about \$296 billion, unchanged from 1990, and force the Pentagon to swallow about \$10 billion in cost increases attributable to inflation, the Times said.

For the coming year, congressional Democrats and some Republicans have proposed cuts of up to \$13 billion and all savings was expected to go toward meeting the deficit reduction target set by the Gramm-Rudman Act.

Senior officials told the Times the administration was ready to acquiesce to a reduction equal to that proposed by lawmakers because it would have to greatly modify its offer to win congressional approval.

"The administration is behind the curve," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. "The fact is that we all know, beyond any possible doubt, that the Soviet Union isn't about to launch an attack."

"But their budget doesn't reflect that. If they don't move, Congress will define the issue," said McCain, a member of the Armed Services Committee.

A senior administration official who refused to be named said the cuts were made possible by the "irreversibility" of change in the Soviet Union.

"It's not perestroika or Gorbachev that has changed our needs," the official said, "but the fact that the Soviets aren't going to plough through countries that are unfriendly to them in order to get at Europe. Where we had enemies, we now have a big fat buffer in Poland and Czechoslovakia."

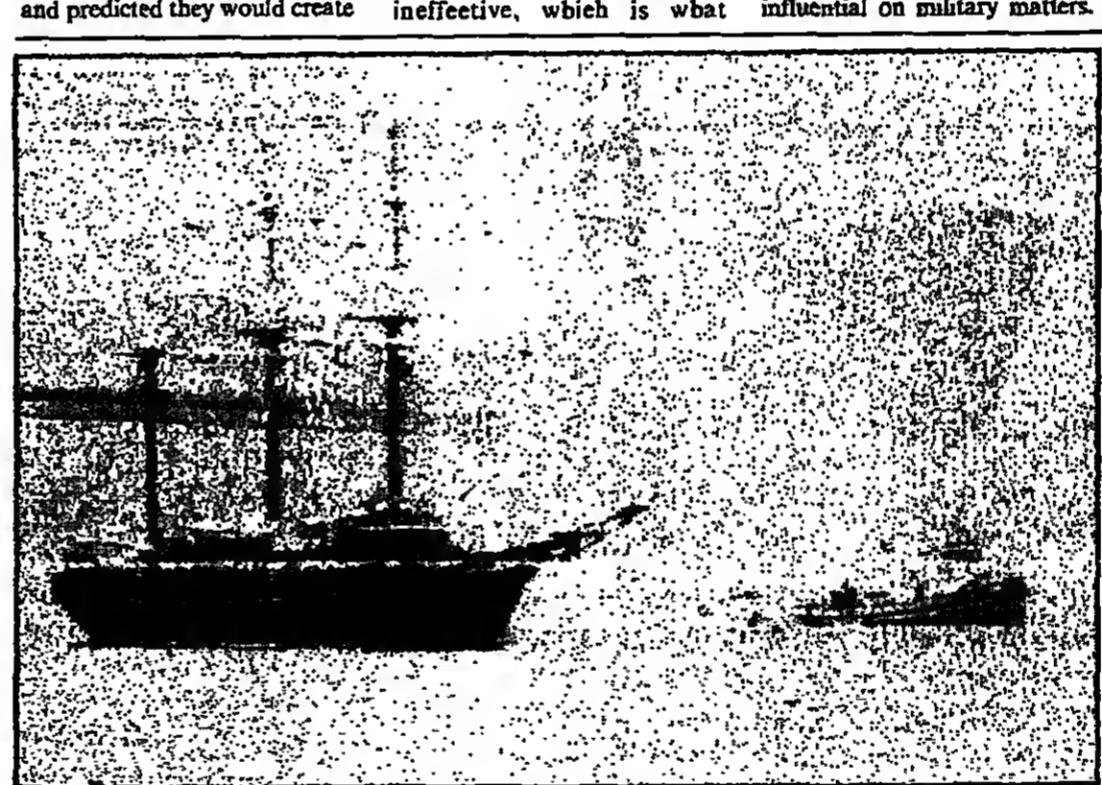
Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said he opposed the cuts and predicted they would create

havoc with personnel and training, leaving the armed forces unprepared.

"If the cuts are at that level, and it looks as if they are going to be," Cheney said, "then there's going to be real trouble. You can't lop off \$10 billion without cutting back on personnel or on readiness. You'll end up hollowing out the forces making them undermanned, undertrained, ineffective, which is what everyone says they want to avoid."

The legislators who most closely oversee America's defence budget reaped \$2 million in campaign contributions last year from political action committees affiliated with the defence industry.

The biggest chunks went to committee leaders and other legislators who are particularly influential on military matters.



Golden Gate Bridge

The Japanese sailing ship Kanin Maru passes under the Golden Gate Bridge with the lantern from a fire boat sail arrives in San Francisco to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the opening of trade between Japan and the US. The ship is a replica of the ship of the same name that made that historic trip carrying representatives of Japan's Shogun to the US. (Reuter wirephoto)

Zambia rejects reforms

One-party system to stay: Kaunda

LUSAKA, March 18. (AP): Zambia's ruling party yesterday rejected proposals to create a Western-style multi-party democracy.

President Kenneth Kaunda's United National Independence Party (Unip) concluded a four-day national convention with the 1,000 delegates deciding to retain the one-party system introduced in 1973, officials told reporters.

Kaunda said the decision followed vigorous debate characterised by "anger and anguish" at times.

The fifth national convention debated political changes in East European countries that had served as models for Kaunda's party.

Kaunda, who led the British colony of Northern Rhodesia to independence as Zambia in 1964, said delegates chose to stick with the "one-party participatory democracy."

Unip has wielded power under Kaunda since independence.

In a keynote address Wednesday opening the convention in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, Kaunda said there would be no change in his political model.

But during the meeting, held behind closed doors, some party members argued for similar reforms to those occurring in formerly orthodox socialist Warsaw Pact nations.

"The one party experience has denied every common man and woman their full rights of citizenship," Arthur Wina, a former cabinet minister and party founder, said in a paper presented to delegates.

Zambia's economic woes, he said, "must have their origins in the political system which we are trying to run against all evidence of the need for change."

foreign countries from 1984 until his death in December, Mueller said.

The indictment, which was filed Jan 26 but remained sealed until Thursday, said Gaech's accounts were listed under corporate names of Transcontinental Traders, Union Enterprises and First Interstate Ltd. Those accounts, Mueller said, contain between \$60 million and \$100 million in drug profits in bank accounts world-wide.

Assistant US Attorney Ernest D. Mueller said the new indictment, which supersedes a previous indictment in the so-called "Son of Lehrer" case, lists 20 defendants, 19 of whom are still fugitives.

Federal prosecutors have frozen accounts world-wide of cartel leader Jose Gonzalez Rodriguez Gacha, who maintained more than 70 accounts in seven

foreign countries from 1984 until his death in December, Mueller said.

The indictment, which was filed Jan 26 but remained sealed until Thursday, said Gaech's accounts were listed under corporate names of Transcontinental Traders, Union Enterprises and First Interstate Ltd. Those accounts, Mueller said, contain between \$60 million and \$100 million in drug profits in bank accounts world-wide.

"The big thing is to immobilise the funds and not let the druggers have them," Mueller said.

Much of the financial information was obtained when Colombian officials raided

a ranch house belonging to Gacha's nephew in Yari, Colombia, in October, Mueller said. The prosecutor said he didn't know if the money would be forfeited, saying that was "a secondary thing."

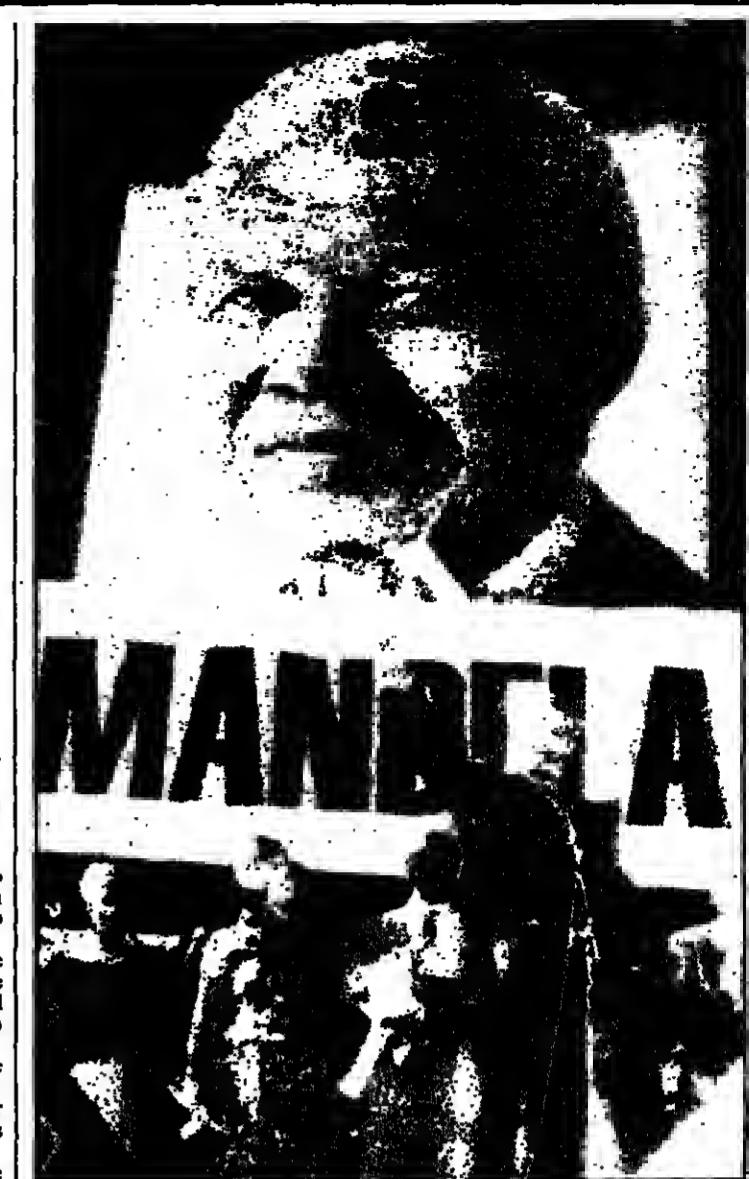
Gacha, Carlos Lehrer Rivas, Pablo Escobar Gaviria, Jorge Ochoa Vasquez and Fabio Ochoa Vasquez joined in the 1970s to create the Medellin cartel, which is believed to account for 80 per cent of the cocaine smuggled into the United States.

Lehrer was convicted in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1988 and sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole, plus 135 years.

A six-month investigation has led to the seizure of 2,200 pounds (1,000 kilogrammes) of cocaine in California and Central America and the arrests of nine people linked to the Medellin cartel, authorities said.

The Drug Enforcement Administration said a Central American country it would not identify helped confiscate 1,210 pounds (550 kilogrammes) of cocaine bound for San Francisco on Friday.

Authorities in the same operation seized 990 pounds (450 kilogrammes) of cocaine 13 days earlier.



Mandela waves an African National Congress flag during an open air concert at Johannesburg's Ellis Park stadium after returning from a trip to African and European countries. (Reuter wirephoto)

Baker to visit SA

Mandela deplores wave of violence

JOHANNESBURG, March 18. (AP): Nelson Mandela yesterday deplored a wave of violence that has claimed hundreds of lives in South Africa and said growing black unrest was against the white-led government's repressive rule.

Mandela, returning home from his first foreign trip since being released from 27 years' imprisonment, said he would try to stop violence in black townships and tribal homelands.

He declined to say what measures his African National Congress would consider to restore calm.

Some 300 people have been killed in fighting in the past month in black townships and the tribal homelands. Most of the fighting has been between rival black factions.

Mandela also told an airport news conference the ANC opposed visits by foreign dignitaries to South Africa, but indicated he would meet with US Secretary of State James Baker at independence ceremonies next week in Namibia.

"If the secretary of state wants to see me, of course I'll see him," Mandela said. "But I will not meet him in South Africa."

Baker invited Mandela to meet with him in Namibia.

The US envoy then plans to go to Cape Town, where he is scheduled to meet with President F.W. de Klerk, other government officials and some black leaders.

"We do not want any high-profile visits to South Africa because these can result in a lot of confusion," Mandela said. "They suggest that President De Klerk has done something positive, something fundamental

which requires the world to review sanctions and other strategies which we have invited in order to increase pressure on South Africa."

De Klerk won praise from world leaders after he legalised the ANC and 60 other organisations and freed Mandela from his life prison term for plotting his ANC's guerrilla campaign.

But the ANC calls for increased international pressure on South Africa's government until it dismantles the apartheid system of racial separation and white dominance.

The ANC said yesterday it would send a delegation to South Africa on April 11 for preliminary talks with De Klerk on setting up formal negotiations on a new constitution to give the black majority national voting rights.

Mandela, selected deputy president of the ANC this month, said he would lead the delegation. His position makes him the organisation's de facto leader while ANC President Oliver Tambo recovers from a stroke in Sweden.

After the news conference yesterday, Mandela attended a concert where some of the country's top musicians sang a song composed in his honour, "The People Want Mandela."

Zambia's president met privately over dinner last night with the political leader of South Africa's biggest tribe, the Zulus, officials said.

No statements were expected after the talks between President Kenneth Kaunda and Kwazulu homeland leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, a state house spokesman said.

Baker completes his Southern African tour with a visit to Zaire where he will hold talks with President Mobutu Sese Seko on ways to end the civil war in Angola.

Mandela yesterday reiterated the ANC's policy of promoting South Africa's diplomatic isolation when he returned home from a two-week foreign visit but added that he would be willing to meet Baker in Namibia.

Baker has shunned off criticism from Mandela and other leaders of the African National Congress of his decision to visit South Africa for talks with President F.W. de Klerk following the independence celebrations.

Baker completes his Southern African tour with a visit to Zaire where he will hold talks with President Mobutu Sese Seko on ways to end the civil war in Angola.

Independence celebrations

Namibia bursting with festivities

WINDHOEK, March 18. (Reuter): Independence celebrations began in earnest today as the first of about 150 foreign delegations arrived in Namibia ahead of Wednesday's formal birth of the world's newest nation.

The normally peaceful capital of this vast desert territory is already bursting at the seams and thousands more visitors are expected in the next two days to witness the final lowering of the South African flag at midnight on Tuesday (2200 GMT).

Official which takes over from Pretoria this week said today that 147 countries had accepted invitations to the independence ceremonies, which will be hosted by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"We expect a few more last-minute

acceptances — the whole world will be here," one official said.

Most of Africa's heads of state will be present to see the demise of the world's largest remaining dependency, and other foreign leaders of the United Nations are already sending representatives at cabinet level.

US Secretary of State James Baker arrives tomorrow for a hectic programme of high-level contacts with other guests including Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze and South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

Baker has shunned off criticism from Mandela and other leaders of the African National Congress of his decision to visit South Africa for talks with President F.W. de Klerk following the independence celebrations.

The Drug Enforcement Administration said a Central American country it would not identify helped confiscate 1,210 pounds (550 kilogrammes) of cocaine bound for San Francisco on Friday.

Authorities in the same operation seized 990 pounds (450 kilogrammes) of cocaine 13 days earlier.

Berliners vote before nation ceases

EAST BERLIN, March 18. (Reuter): The first East German citizens to vote in a free election will cast their ballots before dawn today for a democratic government and a final break with Stalinism.

Kicking off a spring polling season among five countries in Eastern Europe's once monolithic communist bloc, East Germany could be voting in its one and only general election before

it vanishes from the political map. Unification with West Germany in a single German state is backed by all major parties and the great mass of the people. They differ only on the pace and terms of the merger.

Special polling stations for factory workers on night shift open at 5 am (0400 GMT) with the main polling booths following two hours later.

A sunny day was forecast with tem-

peratures climbing to more than 20 degrees Centigrade (70 Fahrenheit).

Although voting by the 12.3 million electorate was not mandatory, a high turnout looked certain.

The outcome was wide open with no clear frontrunner.

A three-party Conservative Alliance and the Social Democratic Party (SDP) — both protégés of the West German political machine —

were each tipped in opinion polls to win about 35 per cent of the vote.

The once all-power communists could finish with anything between three and 17 per cent.

Germany was split in two after the four World War Two allies smashed Hitler's Third Reich in 1945.

Under Soviet tutelage, the eastern part of the country was locked into a rigid communist state behind fortified

borders and, in 1961, behind the Berlin Wall.

The Wall crumbled on Nov 9 last year after a bloodless popular revolt. The Communist Party hardliners were swept away and reformists finally pledged a free election.

Campaigning began almost immediately, with the wealthy West German parties of Christian Democrat Chancellor Helmut Kohl

and veteran Social Democrat Willy Brandt steering conservatives and leftists into uncharted political territory.

The hustings reached a climax on Friday, giving East Germans a "pause for thought" before making up their minds.

Thousands spent a day in the sun relaxing at the park, the lake or the beer garden.

But Brandt, in a final lung to prop up the SPD to victory over Kohl's allies, carried on campaigning in three northern towns, accusing the East German Christian Democrats of being communist stooges for 40 years.

About 90 minutes after voting ends at 6 pm (1800 GMT), the country can expect first computer projections of the result with a provisional final tally around midnight (2300 GMT).

GDR: facts at a glance

EAST BERLIN, March 18. (Reuter): Here are the basic facts about East Germany, which holds its first free election today following last year's peaceful overthrow of communist one-party rule.

Population: about 16 million, including a Slavic ethnic minority of about 100,000 near the border with Czechoslovakia.

More than 2.5 million people fled to the West between 1949 and the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. Since then, many have appeared in the iron curtain in the summer of 1989, about half a million East Germans have emigrated to West Germany.

Area: 108,33 square km. (41,827 sq miles). East Germany borders West Germany to the west, Czechoslovakia to the south, Poland to the east and the Baltic Sea to the north.

Capital: East Berlin (population 1.2 million).

Because of Berlin's special status, West Germany has not formally recognised the city's eastern sector as a sovereign capital.

Religion: The Protestant church, with some seven million members, was a crucial force in the pro-democracy movement in 1989. There are also about one million Roman Catholics.

Armed forces: East Germany is on the frontline of the Warsaw Pact and has 380,000 Soviet troops on its soil. Its own armed forces, until recently numbering 172,000, have been depleted by desertions and a reduction in the length of compulsory military service to 12 months from 18. Western experts estimate the forces could now number as few as 90,000.

History: East Germany, formally the German Democratic Republic (GDR), was founded on October 7, 1949, on territory occupied by Soviet forces after the allied defeat of Nazi Germany in World War Two. Foundation followed the creation of West Germany in the British, French and US occupation zones.

Community-ruled until last year, East Germany's history on the East-West divide was marked by fragile co-existence with West Germany and post-war tensions over Berlin, split into sectors still officially controlled by the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

A workers' uprising over increased work quotas in East Berlin in 1953 posed the greatest early challenge to the state and was crushed on June 17 by Soviet tanks and troops.

On August 13, 1961, the Berlin Wall was born when East Germany erected a barrier of barbed wire around East Berlin, nominally to keep out Western subversive elements but in fact to stem an exodus of tens of thousands of its citizens.

Improvements in relations with West Germany brought a landmark meeting between Prime Minister Willi Stoph and West German Chancellor Willy Brandt in 1970 and signature of a basic treaty in 1972 normalising ties and travel from West to East.

A renewed exodus of East Germans to the West, coupled with a growing movement for reform inside the country, caused Honecker's downfall on October 18, 1989. On November 9 his successor Egon Krenz opened the borders to the West.

24 parties competing for 400 seats

BONN, March 18. (Agencies): Some 24 parties and political groupings in East Germany are today competing for the 400-seat parliament in the first free democratic elections, since establishment of that German country.

In order to give smaller political and social groupings the opportunity to win places in the forthcoming people's assembly, the government of Prime Minister Hans Modrow decided that parties will have a deputy for each 0.25 per cent share of the vote.

About 12.2 million voters are expected to participate in the voting.

Observers are predicting that the new assembly in East Berlin will compose variety of groupings in addition to the Social Democratic Party (SDP), which is expected to be the strongest in the parliament.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and a number of leaders of the Christian Democratic Party have campaigned in East German cities in support of the three-party conservative coalition.

Meanwhile, the Social Democratic Party, emanated from the United Social Party that ruled East Germany for more than 40 years, is comprising a number of pro-renovation figures who enjoy wide popularity such as Prime Minister Hans Modrow.

East Germany's Social Democrats leader Ibrahim Boahma speaks at a election rally near the Polish border as Willy Brandt looks on.



Thousands of West Berliners demonstrate against the unification of the two German states on the eve of the election in East Germany. (Reuter wirephoto)

Communists won't get more than 18pc vote: survey

Unification remains main issue

EAST BERLIN, March 18. (AP): With the pace of unification the main issue, East Germans vote for a 400-member Parliament today, in the first free elections since the country was formed in 1949.

Boosted by numerous campaign appearances and support from West German politicians including Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the East Germans wrapped up the election campaign this weekend.

As the campaign drew to a close, the country's hated secret police and reports of possible ballot fraud became a key issue.

The recently West German Altenbach Institute said yesterday that 90 per cent of some 12.2 million eligible voters were expected to take part in the balloting. Polls were open from 7 am (0600 GMT) to 6 pm (1700 GMT).

The survey said that the Conservative Alliance for Germany, an election coalition of three parties that includes the Christian

Democrats, appears to have caught up with the leftist Social Democrats.

Both parties could win about 30 per cent of the votes each, the institute said.

But the institute also said that only one-third of the 2,000 people asked in the survey had decided on who they would vote for, but that 50 percent said they would not vote for the communists. The institute gave no margin of error for the survey.

Today's ballot marks the first free vote in East Germany's 41-year history and a full transition to democracy from the country's former iron-fisted communist rule.

It will also set the pace of unification with West Germany.

Some conservative parties urged quick unification, while leftists have advocated a more cautious and slower approach.

In their statement, the seven parties demanded the use of fingerprints to prevent former secret police agents from voting several times today.

The secret police force, which

officials say once numbered nearly 200,000 agents and informers, was the hardline communists' main instrument of controlling the nation's people. A popular revolution forced the ouster of hard-line communist leader Erich Honecker on Oct 18.

The communist-led government claims the secret police have been virtually disbanded, but many East Germans doubt those assertions.

An election commission representing all political parties has asserted that vote rigging is impossible.

Voters will chose from an array of 24 parties and groupings. Election helpers completed work on the 22,000 polling stations, which latest polls show the communists getting no more than 18 per cent.

West German television plans to give computer projections within hours of the poll-closing. Final official results were not expected before Monday.

East Germans opt for democracy

EAST BERLIN, March 18. (UPI): When East Germans went to the polls in their country's first free elections today, they undoubtedly confirmed the end of 40 years of communist rule and opted for democracy and affluence, West German style.

The electoral contest is likely to be a neck-and-neck race between the Social-Democratic Party and the Conservative Alliance for Germany, each of which can expect to garner between 30 and 40 per cent of the vote.

New Forum, which played a key role in the peaceful revolution that ousted the hardline communist leadership late last year, can expect to be even worse off than the former ruling party and is unlikely to gain any significant percentage of the vote.

A loosely organised group, New Forum defended the need for a separate East German identity, failing to respond in time to popular pressure for German reunification, on which the West German-backed parties have capitalised.

Indications are the Social Democrats will gain a slight advantage over its main opponent.

The SPD's chances further improved at the last minute, when leading Conservative candidate Wolfgang Schnur resigned after admitting he had worked for the once-feared state security police of the ousted hard-

line communist leadership.

Schnur, who had the personal backing of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, headed the Democratic Awakening, which together with the Christian Democratic Union and the German Social Union formed the Conservative Alliance for Germany.

The Social-Democrat's main candidate, Ibrahim Boehme, is confident he will become the first non-communist leader in the state's 40-year history, and probably its last before German reunification.

A tough-talking 45-year-old historian, Boehme has gained popularity for his courageous opposition to the Communist Party, which he quit in 1976. He was imprisoned for 13 months afterward.

But he still must prove himself as a politician. If he wins, he will become leader of a country unsettled by months of uncertainty and faced with the prospect of delicate reunification negotiations.

Without one of the parties expected to win an outright majority, the major parties will have to join hands to form a new government.

Such a coalition could include the SPD, the Alliance for Germany and the smaller Liberal Alliance, each of which has the backing of West German political parties.

Whatever the outcome of the vote, East Germans can expect their country to be united with West Germany within two years or less.



Supporters of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) cheer Willy Brandt, honorary chairman of both East and West Germany's (SPD) parties and East German SPD leader Ibrahim Boehme in Greifswald. (Reuter wirephoto)

Police battle skinheads

EAST BERLIN, March 18. (Reuter): East German police beat 200 football hooligans, including neo-Nazi skinheads, who ran amok through East Berlin yesterday, the eve of the country's national elections, the official ADN news agency said today.

The hoodlums, supporters of the FC Berlin Soccer Club, smashed shop windows, chanted fascist slogans and burned an East German flag in the central Alexanderplatz, ADN said.

Three policemen were injured and two police cars damaged in the clashes, a police spokesman was quoted as saying.

Police made 16 arrests, including a West Berliner involved in the flag-burning, ADN said.

East German police have reported increasing trouble with Neo-Nazi skinheads and soccer violence since the country's authoritarian Stalinist leadership fell in a popular uprising late last year.

Romance and beer for East Germans on eve of first free poll

EAST BERLIN, March 18. (Reuter): East Germans, unruffled at the closing of a political era, relaxed on the eve of their first free election, strolling hand in hand and enjoying their beer gardens on a balmy spring yesterday.

They showed no sign of anxiety at prospects that today's vote will lead to unity with West Germany in which their once communist hardline state will disappear as an entity.

A half-hour's drive from the barracks-like apartment blocks of the inner city, courting couples stretched out on the grass in the park of Koepenick Castle, on an island strewn with crocuses in the River Spree.

On the opposite bank, in a beer garden beneath the trees, East Berliners drank mugs of Golden Pilsener in the sunshine and listened to a brass band playing oompah music.

"Why shouldn't we relax?" said Peter Michaelis, taking coffee and pastries with his wife and two boys. "Life goes on. We have to stay calm and see how the election goes."

The Alexander Wolf, a big white leisure boat, drifted lazily by on the Spree, followed by the river police in their grey-hulled motor launch.

"Everything will unfold as it should," said Gisela Stille, sharing a bench in the Castle Park with her married daughter Angelika

Speda. As long as Sunday's election was peaceful and fair, East Germans said, they were ready for whatever result it yielded, though many expressed irritation at the dominant role of West German politicians in the campaigning.

"After what we've experienced in the past few months, this is not the sort of event to make you tremble," said Speda. "It's only another little step in the developments to come."

Whatever the outcome of the vote, East Germans can expect their country to be united with West Germany within two years or less.

Chronology

EAST BERLIN, March 18. (Reuter): Here is a chronology of the main events in East Germany's history, from its origins to today's free elections today:

May 7-8, 1945 — Unconditional surrender of German forces ends World War Two in Europe. The country is divided into four occupation zones controlled by the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

May 23, 1949 — Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) founded in western zones with Bonn as capital.

Oct 7, 1949 — German Democratic Republic (East Germany) founded in Soviet zone as communist state with Walter Ulbricht as party leader and East Berlin as capital.

March-Sept 1952 — Stalin proposes neutral, reunited Germany. West German leader Konrad Adenauer rejects it.

Aug 13, 1961 — East Germany builds Berlin Wall to stem flood of refugees to the West. More than 80 people shot dead trying to cross the wall between 1961 and February 1989.

March 19, 1970 — West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, promoting his concept of Germany as two states but one nation, becomes first Bonn leader to visit East Germany.

May 3, 1971 — Erich Honecker takes over as party leader.

1972 — East and West Germany establish diplomatic ties, paving the way for international recognition of East Germany.

Sept 7-11, 1987 — After cancelling a trip in 1984, Honecker becomes first East German head of state to visit West Germany.

Jan 17, 1988 — Forty people arrested after they unfurl protest banners at an official rally. Others are detained and expelled from the country, including leading dissidents.

May 2, 1989 — Hungary opens its border with Austria, paving the way for an unprecedented exodus of tens of thousands of East Germans via Hungarian territory to the West.

May 7, 1989 — More than 100 people arrested in Leipzig after protest over alleged rigging of local elections.

Aug 9, 1989 — East Germans seeking to emigrate occupy West German missions in East Berlin, Prague, Budapest and Warsaw.

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Hostages may be free early next year

NICOSIA, March 18 (AP): A senior Iranian official said in an interview published today the Western hostages in Lebanon could be freed within 10 months.

Ali Mohammad Besharati, first deputy foreign minister, told the Tehran Times newspaper, "I can say that all the hostages may be released by next January."

Besharati's statement is the latest in a series about the hostages from ranking officials and the government-run media in Tehran.

A moderate faction led by President Hashemi Rafsanjani says the hostage issue is moving toward a solution, while a radical faction argues against releasing

them.

The 18 Western hostages are believed held by Shiite Muslim groups loyal to Iran, but thought to be more loyal to the radicals than the moderates. The hostages include eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

Besharati, who visited Lebanon recently, said he believes chances for a hostage release are better than ever.

"I saw the situation there," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "And you know nothing is secret in Lebanon. On the basis of my observations I can say the chances for freedom for the hostages are

brighter than at any time before."

The official said he did not expect all the hostages to be released at one time.

He also said Iran has no direct link to the kidnappers.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, as it has been repeatedly said, is against the philosophy of hostage-taking and Tehran has no direct or indirect role in this matter," Besharati said.

"Many countries believe that we in Iran have spiritual influence in Lebanon," he said. "They also believe that we can use the spiritual influence for freedom of the hostages."

An advance copy of the interview with

the English-language daily in Tehran was sent to the Associated Press. The same paper in two recent editorials called for releasing the hostages as an Islamic and humanitarian action.

Besharati said Israeli attacks on Lebanon had twice prevented hostage releases — one was an unspecified attack on Muslim positions in south Lebanon two years ago and the second was the July 28, 1989, kidnapping of Sheik Abdul Karim Obeid.

"I think if these two incidents had not taken place, by now the hostages would have reached their homes," the Foreign Ministry official said.

Israeli President holds meetings on new government

Shamir, Peres vie to lead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 18, (Agencies): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir vied with sacked vice-premier Shimon Peres to form a new Israeli government today after their coalition collapsed over proposed peace talks with Palestinians.

At separate meetings, Shamir's right-wing Likud and Peres's dovish Labour asked President Chaim Herzog for authority to form a new

Peres, sacked by Shamir last week, led the no-confidence fight in Parliament over Shamir's proposal to accept US proposals for convening first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

"If we form a government very quickly, and I hope this will be the situation, we will be sitting very soon with the Palestinians in Cairo," Haim Ramon, the Labour parliamentary leader, said before meeting Herzog.

Lengthy negotiations are likely as both main parties woo four religious parties holding the key to power, including Shas. Formation of the unity government assembled 15 months ago took 52 days.

"It can take days and it won't surprise me if it takes weeks and not a few weeks," Ramon told reporters.

Labour politicians expected Herzog would give Peres the first crack at forming a government by the end of the week.

But Sarah Doron, Likud parliamentary leader, told reporters after meeting Herzog: "We recommended to the president that Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, continue as prime minister."

Likud politicians told Herzog they hoped to form another unity government after Shamir withdrew an internal leadership challenge at a 3-1/2 hour meeting of the Likud caucus last night.

After seeing Herzog, Likud parliament member Zalman Shoval said:

"What we basically said — and I don't think he disagreed with us on that point — was that the problems and the situation which forced us a year-and-a-half ago to form a national unity government had not changed."

Israel television said last night that backers of former defence minister Yitzhak Rabin of Labour were threatening to challenge Peres's position as party head.

The Likud parliamentary faction met last night and decided to back Shamir ahead of the meeting with Herzog. Shamir stayed away from the meeting.

Parliament member Reuven Rivlin said at the meeting that Deputy Prime Minister David Levy should replace Shamir.

In unrest today, Salim Yacob Rihan, 30, of Amari Camp in the West Bank died in hospital after being shot in the head by rubber bullets fired by Israeli soldiers in clashes on Thursday, Palestinians said.

FIS demands dissolution of Algerian Parliament

ALGIERS, March 18, (Reuter): Algeria's fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) yesterday demanded the dissolution of Parliament ahead of local elections scheduled for June.

FIS spokesman Abbasi Madani told a news conference the elections, the first multi-party poll in 30 years, were of dubious legitimacy as long as Parliament was run by the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

But Madani said his party, widely considered the country's strongest opposition force, would participate in the elections as long as Parliament did not enact "repressive" laws.

"We doubt the legitimacy of the town and provincial elections as long as they are not preceded by National Assembly elections," Madani said.

The FIS demands the dissolution and re-election of the National Assembly. This does not contradict its entry into the town and provincial elections."

Since moves toward multi-party democracy last year, Parliament has voted sweeping political and economic reforms and is now studying an amendment to the electoral law designed to introduce greater proportional representation.



Former US president Jimmy Carter (left) and Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Qassim discuss prospects of peace in the Middle East on Saturday. Amman is the third leg of Carter's tour in the region which will also take him to Israel and Tunis. (Reuter wirephoto)

Jordan role reaffirmed

Carter for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue

AMMAN, March 18, (Agencies): Former US president Jimmy Carter today reaffirmed Jordan's key role in the Middle East peace process and said he favours an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue as the next step in efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Carter, who brokered the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, was apparently seeking to allay Jordanian fears, voiced privately by senior officials in Amman, that the kingdom was being edged out of the peace process.

"There's no way to proceed in any substantive way toward peace without Jordan being deeply and intimately involved," Carter told a news conference before leaving for Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The former president, on his third visit to the Middle East since leaving office in 1981, said he believed the Camp David accord between Egypt and Israel offered the "framework or guideline" for peace in the region.

Jordan, which renounced all territorial claims to the West Bank in July 1988 to make way for the Palestine Liberation Organisation to act on behalf of the Palestinians, has been sidelined since the PLO recognised Israel and renounced terrorism in November 1988.

Secret US-Syria talks

DUBAI, March 18, (AP): Syria will demilitarise the strategic Golan Heights if Israel withdraws its troops from the territory captured in 1967, the government-owned Al Bayan daily reported today.

That was the outcome of talks between the United States and Syria on the Middle East peace process and Western hostages held in Lebanon, the daily said.

The paper, which did not say where or when the talks took place, said they were "secret and high-level."

Al Bayan quoted unnamed sources as saying: "Syria expressed readiness to agree to demilitarisation of the Golan if Israeli troops withdrew."

The Golan issue will soon be discussed by US Secretary of State James Baker with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, the paper added.

The Golan issue has been one of the main stumbling blocks in efforts to find a Middle East settlement.

But in recent months, the Syrians, plagued by economic woes and political isolation, have been moving back into the Arab mainstream. A weakening of Soviet support for Damascus, for long Moscow's main Arab ally, in recent months amid liberalising reforms has also helped nudge Syria toward greater moderation.

Damascus restored relations with Egypt in December, ending a 12-year rift caused by Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Ireland's State Minister for Defence, Vincent Brady (right) shakes hands with his Lebanese counterpart Albert Mansour on Friday after arriving at Beirut airport. Brady said his country was still hoping Irish hostage Brian Keenan would be freed soon along with other foreign hostages. (Reuter wirephoto)

Morocco

Blind stage hunger strike

RABAT, March 18, (Reuter): A hundred blind Moroccans are staging a hunger strike at a Rabat mosque, demanding the chance to learn and earn.

They sat in the central courtyard of the Sid Al Ghanbar mosque tomorrow holding placards listing 17 aims.

One of them told Reuters the demonstration began on Thursday and would continue until the authorities promised to examine their grievances.

They want special facilities for the blind in the education system, school books in Braille and audio libraries.

No official figures are available for the number of blind in Morocco.

KABUL, March 18, (Reuter): Afghan President Najibullah is scrambling to shore up his political position badly shaken by the March 6 coup attempt in Kabul spearheaded by rebel air force pilots.

In a blunt televised address to mujahedeen field commanders this week, Najibullah tried to paint his implacable foe, hardline guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, as their worst enemy.

He said coup leader Shah Nawaz Tanai, his now sacked defence minister who was last seen in reporters in a cave hideout in Logar province about 50 km (30 miles) south of the capital, had joined forces with Hekmatyar.

"Gulbuddin and his treacherous group

intend to weaken other opposition groups and make himself champion of the race," the official Bakhtar News Agency quoted Najibullah as saying.

"With my Islamic and Afghan voice I say loudly, 'resist with all your might against them. Topple the national traitors and killers of your sons,'" he said in the appeal to guerrillas who are nominally allied with Hekmatyar in the Pakistan-based Afghan opposition.

Tanai has failed to win support from the other six guerrilla groups based in Pakistan.

Najibullah, attempting to exploit tribal and political differences plaguing the opposition Islamic rebels, said in his speech that men of Hekmatyar's Hezb-i

Islami have attacked and killed other mujahedeen recently in six Afghan provinces.

The mujahedeen appear to have made significant gains in the battle for Khost, a small garrison town about 160 kms (100 miles) southeast of Kabul and commanding one of the roads leading to the Afghan capital.

Mujahedeen forces captured the village of Tanai and two other security posts in Khost district which the guerrillas have been trying to seize for months, Bakhtar News Agency reported at the weekend.

The village of Tanai is also the family home of the coup leader.

Government troops repulsed a heavy attack on Jalalabad this week, the news agency said. Mujahedeen have been trying



Two Christian children search in the rubble in front of a sand barricade in battered east Beirut. Battles between rival Christian forces resumed in north Beirut sending civilians into underground shelters. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ibrahim in Beirut: car bomb defused

New bid to resolve crisis

BEIRUT, March 18, (Agencies): Arab trouble shooter Lakhdar Ibrahim discussed with Syrian-backed President Elias Hirawi and Prime Minister Selim Hoss ways to resolve Lebanon's deadlocked political crisis, official sources said today.

They said Arab League envoy Ibrahim, who arrived in Beirut yesterday, met separately with Hirawi, Hoss, house Speaker Hussein Husseini and several political and religious leaders.

Official sources said the talks focused on helping Hirawi extend his authority to the Christian enclave, where troops under General Michel Aoun and the rival Lebanese Forces (LF) militia have been fighting for control.

Ibrahim represents the Arab League committee of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria formed to seek an end to the Lebanese crisis. He scored his biggest diplomatic success last September when he negotiated a ceasefire that halted six months of fighting between Aoun's 15,000 troops and Syrian forces.

Meanwhile, a car bomb was defused near a Syrian army base in Muslim west Beirut today as rival Christian forces battled with artillery and tanks in mountains north of the city, shattering a two-month-old ceasefire in their mini-war.

Police reported that a driverless navy blue Audi

Sedan packed with 60 kilogrammes (132 pounds) of explosives was rolled down a street leading to the wrecked Commodore hotel with its motor and lights off before dawn.

"But it veered slightly to the left and hit a sandbag position on a road intersection about 20 yards (metres) from the commode and luckily failed to go off," said a police spokesman.

He said the target of the attempted bombing was almost certainly the hotel, where about 100 Syrian soldiers are quartered.

The seven-storey hotel was for years the main base of Western correspondents covering Lebanon's civil war before it was wrecked in 1987 in fighting between rival Muslim militias.

The building is across the street from a seven-storey block housing the Beirut offices of the Associated Press, the US CBS and NBC television networks, the British Broadcasting Corp. and Kuwait's Al Qabas daily.

The police spokesman said bomb disposal experts established that the explosives were set to detonate at 4 am (0400 GMT), but they could not determine why the timing device failed to function.

The car bomb remained undetected for more than two hours, until Syrian sentries began patrolling the areas at 6 am (0400 GMT), the spokesman added.

Iran needs \$9b to rebuild towns, villages

NICOSIA, March 18, (Reuter): Iran needs more than \$9 billion to rebuild towns and villages damaged in the Gulf war, Iran's top reconstruction official said yesterday.

Vice-President Hamid Mirzadch said obstacles to reconstruction included acute shortages of manpower, money and transport.

Speaking a week after parliamentary speaker Mehdi Karroubi criticised the slow pace of reconstruction, Mirzadch appealed to parliament to increase his budget.

"The speed of reconstruction depends on the budget. Unfortunately, the parliament's planning and budget committee has halved the reconstruction allocation demanded by the government," he told Iranian television.

The allocation, included in the budget for the next Iranian year beginning on Wednesday, is being debated in parliament.

Mirzadch said his agency had built or repaired 118,000 houses and service buildings in the 19 months since a ceasefire ended fighting with Iraq.

He said the agency needed another \$1 billion in foreign exchange and 580 billion rials (\$8.2 billion) in Iranian currency to complete its task.

Repairs in 20 cities bombed in the eight-year war and 38 towns near the war zone had been completed, Mirzadch said, and work had begun on seven remaining areas, including the devastated port of Khorramshahr and the oil city of Abadan.

In Israel last week, a military official said the Patriot "only gives limited solution to the missile problem, so we don't intend to buy it at this stage."

"We are looking at other systems," the official said, while declining to elaborate.

Israel's dilemma is the cost versus the threat. For the \$200 million the United States is asking for two Patriot systems Israel would need, it could produce the next generation of anti-missile missile, known as the Arrow.

The Arrow programme is a component of the strategic defence initiative, the space-based defence system being developed by the United States, which the US Defence Department has farmed out to Israel for research and development.

Two drivers, an Israeli and a Palestinian go on trial in Cairo tomorrow on charges they introduced an Egyptian woman to a Mossad agent who offered her "huge amounts of money" to spy for Israel.

Court papers charge that the Israeli, Egyptian-born Ibrahim Sabah Arada, and Palestinian Awad Moussa Thabet Zareb, both 35, collaborated in their alleged crime with a man identified only as Abu Haroun, an officer in Israel's Mossad secret service.

Armenian Foreign Minister Vazgen Sargsyan will convene a meeting in Sanaa March 23 to discuss means of developing bilateral relations. It was revealed in Cairo on Sunday.

The Gulf News Agency quoted Sargsyan as saying on arrival at the meeting, up of diplomatic relations last year "marked a new era in friendship and co-operation between the two countries." *

Egypt-Yemen talks: The Egyptian-Yemeni committee will convene a meeting in Sanaa March 23 to discuss means of developing bilateral relations. It was revealed in Cairo on Sunday.

Egyptian diplomatic sources told Kuna that Egyptian Premier Atef Suleki will chair Egypt's delegation to the two day meetings.

He added the committee will thoroughly study means of strengthening political and economic relations and the possibility of developing trade exchange and benefiting from the Egyptian expertise in fields of industry, agriculture and culture in North Yemen's ventures. (Kuna)

KUWAIT ... GULF

State budget draft to be ready in May

Higher committee meets

THE higher committee for the state budget held a meeting recently under the chairmanship of finance undersecretary Abdul Mohsen Al Hanif. The committee consisted of senior officials from Ministries of Planning and Finance and the Civil Service Commission.

Undersecretary Hanif said the committee discussed a work paper submitted by a

special team to develop and follow up general frame of the state budget in order to prepare for the state budget of fiscal year 1991/92 and the following years. He added that the team submitted a time programme for preparing the budget of ministries and government authorities and establishments.

He added that the work paper of the

team connected the state budget with Five Year Plan of the state through the unification of concepts, idioms and classification specially since the budget laws will be approved at the beginning of the fiscal year 1991/92.

Connection

He added that preparing of the state budget will start in March every year to

determine the economic and social developments during the fiscal year. The higher committee of the state budget will study the draft budget in May and then submit its recommendations to the finance minister. Later the draft budget will be submitted to the Council of Ministers and Higher Planning Council for study and approval, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah received this morning Sheikh Jaber Al Ali.

Mishari leaves

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) Chairman and Managing Director Ahmad Al Mishari today left here for Tunis and London respectively at the head of a KAC delegation.

Mishari told Kuna prior to his departure that the aim of his visits is to discuss boosting co-operation between KAC and Tunisian Airlines in addition to attending inauguration of a new supply unit for Marriott Company for Aviation Services in London.

Sabah for Namibia

MUSCAT, March 18, (Kuna): Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed left the Omani capital yesterday heading for Namibia, after attending the EEC-GCC meeting.

Sheikh Sabah will be attending the inauguration ceremonies of Namibian President Sam Nujoma.

Czech festival

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): Kuwait Cine Club will hold Tuesday a week-long festival for the Czechoslovak cinema displaying five long narrative films and 12 other short ones.

The Cine Club, in a press statement today, said that the week is being organised for the first time in co-operation with the Czechoslovak embassy in Kuwait and will include the latest production of Czechoslovak cinema for children and animated cartoon films.

A competition will be held during the festival which will last until March 25 and a prize will be awarded for the best article written in Arabic on the week and its activities from the audiences.

Quran recital

KUALA LUMPUR, March 18, (Kuna): Kuwait is among some 30 countries which have been invited to participate in the Malaysian-sponsored international Quran reading competition, beginning here Wednesday.

The five-day competition to be officially opened by the paramount ruler, the Yang Di-Pertuan in an annual affair in this country.

In conjunction with the competition, an international seminar aimed at ensuring a proper recital of the Quran will be held at the Islamic Centre here tomorrow.

Simultaneously, an exhibition on science and the Quran will also be held.

A spokesman for the organising committee said today all is set for the occasion.

He said five working papers will be presented at the two-day seminar to be attended by 800 people, including participants and judges of the Quran reading contest.

He added this will be the first time the Quran reading competition is held outside the fasting month of Ramadan.

KNPC report

THE Chairman of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) Ahmed Al Mutair has been quoted as saying that the company's activities for 1988/1990 embodied the optimum utilisation of the company's refineries and gas plant.

In his introduction to the company's annual report, the official said that the most prominent performance of the company during 1989 is represented in the inauguration of Mina Abdulla Refinery Modernisation Project which was patronised by H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah.

Official talks

BAGHDAD, March 18, (Kuna): The visiting Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Suleiman Majid Al Shaheen began official talks with Iraqi officials yesterday.

Talks, during his visit, will tackle bilateral issues of mutual concern and ways of enhancing them.

Shaheen, delivered a message from Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber to Iraqi Premier for Economic Affairs Sadeq Hamadi.



Paaet technology course

A course on Training Technology held by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training for a number of Defence Ministry officers from March 3 to 14 has wound up its activities.

The concluding ceremony was attended by the deputy director-general of Paaet Hmoud Al Mudaf and the head of scholarship and courses in the Kuwaiti Army, Staff Col. Qasem Ghloom.

The scientific co-ordinator of the course Dr Ahmad Bo Zehar said that the course was aimed at training the participants in the use of modern technological equipment used in the field of training, pointing out that the course included theoretical and practical lectures.

The main subject of the course centred on the use of computer technologies computer-aided systems, computerised video projection and others in training activities.

Ensure protection for maids, say academics

THE struggle between maids and their employers is said to be a natural result of differences between the interests of both sides, according to social and education professors at Kuwait University.

On the issue of maids, they said that Kuwaiti law always sets aside maids as the only ones that should be accused. They described maids offices as slave dealers ... They also stressed that the maid population is human with feelings and should be treated as such. They called for root resolutions demanding laws in order to ensure protection for this group.

Dr Abdul Wahab Al Zafeeri from the Social Studies Department at the Arts College of Kuwait University said that the maids phenomenon is not a new one in Kuwait and that the truth lies behind the maids trying to understand the norms of the new society they are brought into. He added that it is natural that differences and disputes will arise between maids and their employers due to the different interests of both sides.

He indicated that maids in the past were only employed by specific families but, now maids are employed in households at all levels and since many parents are unable to deal with their children, they find it even harder to deal with housemaids.

Studies

He said that statistics indicate that 72 per cent of inmates at the women prison are originally maids. He added that Kuwaiti law serves Kuwaits on the account of others. This puts maids on the wrong side of the law at all times. He said that unfortunately there are no scientific studies conducted on the reaction of maids adding that most people think that

maids are weak humans and are incapable of avenging themselves.

Dr Abdullah Al Langawi from the Social Studies Department stated that maids in Kuwait are treated unfairly by the law. He added that most maids problems usually occur in households where parents or employers belong to the uneducated group.

He described most maids offices in Kuwait as slave shops. He indicated that most maids tend not to tell the truth about their ages in order to enter the country and find a job. As a speedy resolution to this problem, he proposed that the government should impose taxes on employers adding that if a law is to be implemented it would force many families to do without maids.

He added that housewives are incapable of taking care of their households and this would be one reason why the government should provide a replacement for maids in the form of childrens nurseries and day care centres.

Resolution

On the other hand, Dr Salem Sari indicated that a root resolution should be adopted in order to counter the issue. He said that the ease with which maids are brought into the country is the main reason behind the large number of maids. He added that due to the low salaries granted to maids estimated at an average of KD30 per month made it easier for many families to afford having a maid inside the house. He suggested that more restrictions should be implemented on bringing maids to the country including setting limits for their salaries. He added that special laws should be adopted to ensure protection for maids.



Hylomar puts the seal on quality

When Rolls Royce encountered difficulties sealing against synthetic lubricants used in early jet engines and found existing joining compounds unsuitable, it researched and developed its own compound. The result of intensive research was Hylomar which is now extensively used in the aeronautical industry and successfully used as a sealant in jet turbine engines providing a high resistance to both fuel and lubricants.

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Hylomar will not harden or set even at high temperatures, it allows metal to metal contact assuring a very strong structural joint. Hylomar is resistant to all fluids and gases normally present in petrol, diesel and turbine engines, gearboxes, transmissions and

cooling systems. It displaces a thin oil film ensuring minimum surface preparation and is easy to dismantle due to its non-hardening properties.

This multi-faceted gasket and jointing compound is suitable for use on alternators, axle assemblies, bearing caps and brackets, cylinder heads, cylinder block plugs, cylinder liner steps, covers, diesel engines, fuel injectors and pumps, gaskets, coating, gas turbines, gearboxes, hydraulic drives and motors, inlet manifolds, oil sumps, petrol engines, thread sealing, timing cases, torque converters, valves and water and oil pumps.

Hylomar is manufactured by Marston Bentley in the UK and is distributed throughout the Middle East, Africa and Indian sub-continent by International Distribution Centre, Welwyn Garden City, UK.

THE inauguration of the Armed Forces Hospital is going to usher in a new era in medical services for the military, the Director of Medical Services at Kuwait's Ministry of Defence Dr Kashed Al Amiri has been quoted as saying.

He disclosed that the Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber is paying particular attention to this issue. He further added that the minister has called to pay more concern to national medical cadres stressing the importance of prequalifying these cadres through the organising of trading courses, seminars and medical workshops.

Speaking of the departmental pathological services Dr Naseem said that the main aim of the hospital is to increase such as the range of general medicine and orthopaedics. Apart from the official said, the hospital is grouping a number of specialities such as chest diseases, heart disease, digestive apparatus, anaesthesia, intensive care, dermatology, venereal disease, surgery in addition to plastic surgery, brain and nerve surgery, urological, dental and ENT.

In an interview with a local daily Dr. Amiri described the new Armed Forces Hospital as a daring measure aimed at upgrading the quality of medical services provided to the military. He further added that the hospital will constitute the outset of a qualitative shift in services.

Speaking of the priorities of military medical service, Dr Amiri said that such a service will concentrate on field medical support, and improving and developing medical services for the three services i.e. the army, navy and air forces.

He added that the department was studying the encouraging of scientific research to be conducted with medical services with concentration on clinical services and field medical services to be extended to the three services.

Meanwhile, the Director of the Armed Forces Hospital Colonel Dr Abdurrahman Al Naseem urged Kuwaitis in the medical

Medical services for forces being upgraded

Kuwaiti medics urged to join in

area to join the military medical service. He added that this will be considered as an open invitation to all Kuwaiti qualified in the medical field to join the Armed Forces Hospital. He described the hospital as a very modern hospital with state-of-the-art equipment and imported medical supplies.

Speaking of the departmental pathological services Dr Naseem said that the main aim of the hospital is to increase such as the range of general medicine and orthopaedics. Apart from the official said, the hospital is grouping a number of specialities such as chest diseases, heart disease, digestive apparatus, anaesthesia, intensive care, dermatology, venereal disease, surgery in addition to plastic surgery, brain and nerve surgery, urological, dental and ENT.

Apart from the above, the hospital groups several other medicine divisions including X-ray units, radiology, pathology laboratories and physiotherapy. Other facilities to be constructed at the hospital include a market club for the hospital employees and a conference room for the hospital's technicians.

EMPLOYMENT opportunities for expatriates are particularly scarce in the public sector and the same is also applicable to the private sector which has not developed all its specialities.

This existing scenario can most expatriates serious problems in obtaining jobs in accordance with their qualifications.

A local daily interviewed a number of expatriates who are academically qualified, but have been forced due to circumstances to accept jobs not suitable for their specialisations and at wages below the average.

Haytham Qadous said he work opportunities in the government sector are practically due to the ongoing recruitment process. He added that he spent a year and a half looking for suitable employment but was compelled to take a job at a shop assistant.

Abdullah Dauib, who holds diploma in aeronautics and would like to find a job at a ticketing, reservations, shipping and travelling services although he had applied to several establishments, he has yet to receive a positive response after two years of waiting he was finally forced to accept a job at a touristic office at a very low salary.

Husni Mohammed said the both expatriates and citizens face problems in obtaining jobs, though the latter have several factors in their favour, the job being well.

Bahrain set to take off in space tech

BAHRAIN's reputation as one of the most advanced telecommunications centres in the world is set to reach greater heights as the island moves well on course in its development of space technology, particularly in the field of satellite communication.

A major conference on space technology was held here recently.

Dr Hamad Al Sulaiti, communications undersecretary and former general secretary of the Bahrain Centre for Studies and Research (BCSR) told about 70 delegates from the region and European nations that in view of the significant progress made in space satellite communication, Bahrain has been able to provide the latest communication services to its residents such as live telecasts of vital events world-wide. He stated that satellite technology provides opportunities to people from different nations to interact, knowledges and technical experiences.

Dr Sulaiti further commented at the conference, said to be held in only one of its kind to be held in the region, that talks are being held by specialists in information and space technology about the possibility of developing a space communications network by the year 2000. He added that the network would be able to store huge amounts of information in space and be easily accessible to all nations on earth for improving economic growth and raising cultural standards.



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LAUCLITA

Sets available for all phone subscribers

Mobile telephones for rent

THE director of telegram and telephone services department at the Ministry of Communications Fadhel Abul Hassan has said that the ministry changed its policy of providing telephone subscribers with telephone sets from last January. He added that ministerial decision was issued giving subscribers the right to a telephone set provided by the ministry.

They are not required to return the telephone set to the ministry when they cancel the telephone service. He added that subscribers can also buy these sets from the local market beside the centrals after paying ten dinars as the cost of the set. The ministry repairs and maintains the set without charge except costs of spare parts.

He however said that telephone sets imported by local companies cannot be repaired or maintained at the ministry.

Specifications

Abul Hassan pointed out that Ministry of Communications will import large quantities of the latest telephone sets during the second half of this year. These sets will be distributed to subscribers who need them. He added that the increase in number of subscribers is the reason that there is a shortage of these sets at the centrals. He added that most telephone sets sold in the local market are licensed after being inspected by engineers of the ministry. They meet the specifications limited by the ministry to avoid damaging or harming the

telephone network. Ahul Hassan added that people can now get the telephone service after only one week of submitting the application at Raas Al Salimiya and Hawalli centrals. This quick service will be applied to all centrals in the country soon. It will however be applied first at Shuwaikh and Jumeirah Al Shiyoukh centrals because pressure on the two modern centrals. He added that computers will be used in selecting the telephone numbers of new subscribers. This will put an end to problems on the selection of certain telephone numbers by employees of the centrals.

Abul Hassan said the ministry rents mobile telecommunications station via

satellites for people who want it against a monthly rent of KD100. The ministry has many of these stations for rent. Anyone can take the station with him on remote trips and voyages and to any country in the world. He however denied there are telephone sets that can record a callers number. He added that there is no mobile telephone set that can do so at the present time.

He pointed out that ministry took part in the Info 90 exhibit where it co-operated with international companies to display modern services like international data bank service. He added that this service enables subscribers to contact and get data from 1,200 data banks in the world by using one secret code.

Security to be stepped up in capital: Rujaib

Dud cheque cases on the increase

THE director of security at the Capital governorate Col Ahmad Al Rujaib has said that it is time shop owners were obliged by law to carry out security precautions as recommended by the Ministry of Interior to protect these establishments from theft.

Col Rujaib said that there are 40,000 shops carrying out various activities in the Capital Governorate, besides commercial banks, money exchange companies and jewellery shops.

These form heavy pressure on Capital security men and some of this protection pressure must be taken over by owners, he said.

He added that the security department at the governorate increased its patrols around the markets and commercial buildings around Kuwait City and more security precautions are under way.

Money related crimes form the bulk that are reported to police centres in the Capital besides the dealing and consuming of alcohol and narcotics. He added that dud cheque cases are on the rise in the city although theft and general misdemeanours have

shown a drop.

Col Rujaib pointed out that the Interior Ministry has asked shop owners to the governorate to install sufficient lights during the night and also install alarm systems that work when any strange person opens the locks of doors. Shopkeepers are also advised not to leave banknotes on shelves of money exchange shops after closing and not to open the money safe in front of strange persons.

persons were accused, 15 cases of narcotics in which 37 persons were accused and 7 cases of liquor were confiscated in which 20 persons were arrested during the same period last year. He added that the problem of narcotics exists in Kuwait but methods to fight it are being developed. The committee that was set up recently and headed by the interior minister is a good proof of Kuwait's concern in fighting narcotics, he said.

He added that self-security should be supported and encouraged because it is the best method to prevent crime. He added that some companies succeeded in protecting their buildings and properties. But they should develop the performance of their security staff by training them and providing them with required equipment.

Col Rujaib added that retired military staff and civilians can be hired as security guards. He also pointed out that his department will run foot patrols in markets and important places of the Capital very soon for the first time in Kuwait.

Crime file

Five Thais arrested for brewing liquor

SECURITYMEN in Ahmad arrested five Thai men on the charge of manufacturing local liquor. Police learned of their activities, raided their residence and seized liquor manufacturing instruments. The five men admitted to the charges and said they were selling the liquor at KD 6 per bottle.

■ CAPITAL securitymen arrested three men for being involved in the forgery of official documents. The three Naser S. and Ali A. both Kuwaitis and Issa A., a non-Kuwaiti, were accused of forging salary certificates in the name of the first accused in order to obtain financial facilities from local companies.

The three forged salary certificates belonging to one of the ministries and made it look like it was issued for the first defendant. By presenting the forged certificate, they succeeded in obtaining many facilities from local companies.

■ THE CRIMINAL court sentenced a man to three-and-a-half years for selling only one gramme of heroin. The court also fined the convict KD 3,000. The court was told that a police officer learnt that the accused was trading in narcotics. He was issued with a warrant to apprehend him. He supplied one of his secret informants with an amount of cash and asked him to buy drugs from the suspect. He did and on the time of delivery, the police arrested the accused and found "one gramme" of heroin in the pocket of his dishdash.

The accused claimed that he was getting the heroin from another person but the court found his claims lacking enough evidence and acquitted the other one.

■ THE CRIMINAL court has ordered the imprisonment of two housekeepers (a male and a female) to three years in jail with hard labour each and subsequent deportation.

The court heard that both were caught by their employer in the act of illicit sex and learnt from the maid, who is over 21 years of age, that her accomplice had intercourse with her on a number of occasions and that she helped him do that.

■ SECURITY investigations have led to the arrest of a man charged with peddling heroin, and subsequent search of his residence led to the retrieval of a roll of the contraband and notes of the marked detective money offered to him in return for a piece of the goods.

The court, hearing this, found the suspect guilty as charged and ordered him jailed for five years with penal servitude to be followed by deportation and ordered him to pay a fine of KD 5,000 and a customs fine of KD 100.

Swedish official

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): Swedish Foreign Undersecretary for Political Affairs Karl-Torsten Ern arrived here today on an official visit to Kuwait.

During his stay, the Swedish official will hold talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud Mohammed Al Ossaimi and with his Kuwaiti counterpart Suliman Majed Al Shaheen on bilateral issues and international and regional developments.

Greek celebration

THE Greek embassy will celebrate the National Independence Day at the Holiday Inn Hotel Sunday March 25, 1990 from 19.00 to 21.00 hrs. Members of the Greek Cypriot communities are kindly requested to attend.

Cable to Premier

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah today received a cable from director of the Arab Centre for Education Research for Gulf states Mohammed Al Sane', in which he extended his gratitude for the kind hospitality he received during his stay in Kuwait.

HH Sheikh Saad sent a reply cable, in which he thanked Sane' for the gesture.

Cabinet reviews bilateral messages

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): The Cabinet today held its weekly session under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah.

Upon the conclusion of the Cabinet meeting, Planning Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said that the council opened with reviewing a message to HH the Amir from Tunisian President Zine Elabidine Bin Ali on the outcome of the summit conference of the Arab Co-operation Council.

The council also took notice of the message from Indian Premier V. P. Singh to HH Sheikh Saad on ways to enhance bilateral cooperation and the latest international developments.

Al Awadi said that the Cabinet's chairman reviewed the outcome of last week's visit of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and his talks with HH the Amir on Islamic, Arab and African issues and bilateral relations.

The council then was briefed on the outcome of the visit by Belgium's heir apparent Prince Albert, who conferred with HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier, ministers and senior state officials.

Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri reported to the Cabinet on his visit to Thailand last week, during which he deplored for HH Sheikh Saad at an international conference on education.

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ARAB & TIMES

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Czech jewellery on show

Models in costumes and hair styles of the early 20th century swaying to music recorded around the same period, proudly exhibited Czech fashion jewellery Saturday night at the Meridien's Thuraya Hall.

The show that was attended by the Ambassador of the Czechoslovak Society

Republie to Kuwait, Thomas Strakos, was organised by Khalil Behman Trading Establishment and Jabolnex Foreign Trade Company Ltd., Czechoslovakia's main exporting body.

Glass, wooden and metal jewellery have been specialities of Czechoslovakie for

more than 250 years. More than 400 exhibited pieces depicted a wide variety of designs and colours and superior craftsmanship.

Red, pink and yellow silk flowers were paraded in baskets by models in 18th

century frocks gracefully dancing to Mozart music.

The Jabolnex Fashion Jewellery Exhibition will be open until March 26 from 9:30 am to 12:30 noon and 4:00 to 8:00 pm. — Diana Abou Hader.

Municipal inspectors to get extra transportation allowance

THE acting director of Kuwait Municipality has said

that the Civil Service Council

has agreed to grant inspectors

at the municipality KD30 a

month as transportation all-

owance besides giving them

ten dinars or 2 per cent of

value of each violation seized

by them provided the violation is approved by the judicial authority.

Amendments

He added that this step was

taken to encourage municipal

inspectors and to compen-

sate them because they use

their own cars during the

inspection of shops and markets.

He added that inspectors who

work in remote areas will have

an option of getting KD30

allowance or to get cars from

the municipality instead.

Meanwhile, the shops

licences controller at the munici-

pality Ali Al Turki said that

the municipality is making a

study to amend the shops

charter. A committee was set

up to study the amendments

on the charter before passing

them to the municipal com-

mittee. The amendments aim

at facilitating procedures for

citizens. He added that the

municipality opened controls

for licences and advertise-

ments at Ahmadi, Jahra and

Capital governorates. It

is also planning to open

another one at Farwaniya

governorate. These controls

have full authorities to

achieve all formalities relat-

ing to shop licences without

referring to the general con-

trol at municipality, he said.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WOE unto them that are tired of everything, for every-
thing will certainly be tired of them — G.K. Chesterton,
English writer (1874-1936).Democracy in Jordan
From prison
to Parliament

AMMAN, Jordan, (AP): A year ago, Ahmed Kofahi was in prison for criticising the government and fired from his job as a university teacher.

Now the Islamic activist is a member of Jordan's revived Parliament, which had been in virtual limbo since 1967, and is heard lambasting officials in the state radio's broadcasts of debates in the House.

Kofahi's march from a prison cell to the halls of power symbolizes the changes that have quietly transformed Jordan over the last year while the roar of democratic revolt has resounded across Eastern Europe.

"The atmosphere's different now. We have more freedom," Kofahi said in an interview. "But it's not enough."

Kofahi, like other Islamic fundamentalists and leftists who are back in Parliament after decades in the political wilderness, want tougher investigations of corruption, greater curbs on security agencies and wider social justice.

Human rights "are born before the human is born," Kofahi said. "It's not a gift from a leader or a party or an authority and not to have these rights is equivalent to death."

The winds of democratic change have swept across some other Arab countries, most dramatically Algeria and Tunisia, where the ruling factions have been shaken up and liberalized.

But Jordan is bordered to the north and east by hardline socialist states whose ruling parties brook little opposition.

Surrounding

"I'm sure the countries surrounding us are not happy about what's going on here," said Taher Masri, a former foreign minister who quit the cabinet to make a successful run for Parliament.

The reforms in this country of 3.1 million people have been more orderly and less sweeping than those that overthrew leaderships in Eastern Europe.

As in Eastern Europe, popular revolt in Jordan triggered the changes. Four days of riots last April over price hikes and government豪气 killed 10 people and shocked King Hussein into action.

Hussein, who has ruled since 1953, is giving up many powers. But he remains in control and personally popular.

In November, he oversaw Jordan's first general elections since 1967, one of the freest elections ever held in the Arab world.

The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood won the largest bloc of seats in the reconstituted 80-member Parliament despite open government criticism.

Kofahi, running on a Brotherhood ticket, won more votes than any of the other 650 candidates.

The king's new Prime Minister, Mudar Badran, faced an extraordinary parliamentary grilling over his personal finances and professional record before he won a vote of confidence.

Since April, the government has freed all detainees held without charge and dozens who had been convicted of politically related crimes, some of them violent.

The pervasive General Intelligence Department has been stripped of its frequently used powers to withhold passports, ban travel or bar employment. Radicals have been allowed to return home.

The government has promised to make officials accountable for corruption. Last week a former undersecretary of the Supply Ministry was arrested in a graft investigation.

Badran vowed to end marital law imposed 23 years ago. He has appointed lawyers to study which of the decrees that have accumulated over two decades should be abolished.

His cabinet has already transferred most classes of cases to civil courts.

Badran also promised to overturn a 1935 defense law inherited from the British mandate giving officials power to ignore many civil rights, a law now used far more widely by neighbouring Israel than by Jordan.

The government ignored its 33-year-old ban on political parties during the election campaign, and says it will legalize parties after a new "national charter" of principles is submitted to a referendum, probably this year.

Demonstrations

Street demonstrations have been allowed, but they have been few and small.

The government cancelled a 1988 decree nationalizing newspapers and returned them to their former managers, although government institutions still hold majority ownership.

"The government is not involved in any way in restricting the press," said Information Minister Ibrahim Izzedine. But many reporters complain that conservative publishers mute critical stories.

Jordan's reforms are still in the process of unfolding and democracy has not meant freedom for all.

The victory of Islamic fundamentalists set back campaigns for Western-style women's rights in Jordan and encouraged closer censorship on moral rather than political grounds.

But Masri is convinced Hussein "will not retreat" from the reforms. He said the monarch could not even do so unless Parliament or other forces acted irresponsibly and turned the public against reform, as in 1957, when some deputies were implicated in a coup attempt.

Jordan's history with Parliaments dates to the 1920s. Most were weak. When they showed signs of independence, they were suspended.

But the kingdom has undergone major changes since then. A country of peasants and bedouins with only one high school in 1948, today it clearly equals Sweden in the percentage of young people who go to college or technical school.

With an educated population, Masri said: "You can't hide anything anymore."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1563 — Peace of Amboise ends first war of religion in France, with Huguenots being granted limited toleration to exercise their religion.

1711 — War is declared between Russia and Turkey.

1775 — Portuguese fleet is repulsed in attack on Montevideo, Uruguay.

1799 — Napoleon Bonaparte begins siege of Acre (Israel) which is defended by Turks.

1808 — Spain's King Charles IV abdicates.

1812 — Spanish Cortes passes liberal constitution under a hereditary monarch.

1861 — Maori War in New Zealand ends.

1933 — Italy's dictator Benito Mussolini proposes pact with Britain, France and Germany.

1962 — Relative calm returns to Algeria after ceasefire, ending seven years of warfare between French and Algerian nationalists.

1963 — Algeria demands that France negotiate on ending nuclear testing in Algerian Sahara.

1971 — At least 150 people perish in landslides north of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

1977 — The Congo's president Marien Ngouabi is assassinated at his official residence in Brazzaville.

1978 — Israeli army takes control of almost all of Lebanon south of Litani river.

1988 — Iraq claims its forces have overrun headquarters of Iranian-backed Kurdish guerrilla leader Jalal Talabani amid heavy mountain fighting.

1989 — Muslim gunners fire rockets into Christian areas of Lebanon.

Last colonial domain in Africa
Namibia: on threshold of freedom

WINDHOEK, (Reuters): Independence fever is sweeping Namibia, where pomp, ceremony, beauty queens and rock groups will herald the final lowering of the South African flag over Africa's last colony next week.

After the hoisting of the new Namibian standard at midnight on Tuesday, United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will swear in former guerrilla leader Sam Nujoma as president of the world's newest nation.

With the exception of two tiny enclaves on the Moroccan coast ruled directly by Spain, Namibia's emergence as a sovereign nation will mark the end of centuries of colonial rule in Africa.

Festivities

The festivities will be witnessed by a score of national leaders and many foreign ministers.

The celebrations will climax on March 24 with a pop concert featuring top acts from Jamaica, Zaire, Britain, the Soviet Union and South Africa.

For the past year, more than 4,000 troops, 1,500 police and 400 civilians from every corner of the globe have been playing midwife to Namibia's protracted birth in the costliest and most successful UN peacekeeping mission to date.

As De Cuellar watches two South African army officers bauld down Pretoria's flag, he will be flanked by President F.W. de Klerk, who has ushered in significant changes in his own country this year.

Namibia's independence and proposed sweeping changes back home have enhanced South Africa's standing in the international community after years of isolation.

A UN supervised election last November was won convincingly by Nujoma's South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo), which for 23 years waged a bush war against South African rule.

Swapo has adopted a policy of reconciliation with its former

enemies and co-operation with its political opponents, stimulating optimism in the country.

The 80,000 white minority, encouraged by pragmatic statements by Nujoma and Swapo's shedding of most of its previous Marxist ideology, are defying earlier patterns of exodus during decolonisation in

other African countries and are staying in Namibia.

All 159 members of the United Nations, except Israel, have been invited. Israel is excluded because it refuses to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a Swapo ally.

Nujoma is an old friend of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.



Sam Nujoma ... president-elect.

Nationalism gathers momentum

BUENOS AIRES, (Reuters): Led by a former rebel army colonel who signs his letters "God, fatherland... or death," nationalism is gaining ground in Argentina while the Peronist government of President Carlos Menem struggles for a way out of economic chaos.

Political analysts say the nationalist movement headed by retired Col Mohamed Ali Seineidin is the only political force growing consistently in opinion polls.

"Seineidin's group is growing at the expense of traditional parties," polster Roseo Fraga said. "Basically, he attracts the people who voted for Menem. They are not turning to radicalism or the left."

Seineidin's group is growing at the expense of traditional parties, polster Roseo Fraga said. "Basically, he attracts the people who voted for Menem. They are not turning to radicalism or the left."

Seineidin, a Roman Catholic born to Lebanese Druze parents, seeks to build a military-civilian coalition.

"The colonel (Seineidin) is a military leader with a political project," said the yet-untitled movement's political secretary, Enrique Graci Sustini. "We want

to form a national movement with political, labour and business support to rebuild the state's power, which now simply does not exist."

Graci said that Menem might turn to the nationalists for help when he finds that his current free-market, liberal policies fail to solve Argentina's economic plight.

When Menem became president last July, prices were nearly doubling every two weeks. By September he had the monthly inflation rate down to a single digit.

His popularity plummeted, however, after Argentina fell back into hyperinflation in late December.

Recent independent surveys show Seineidin is most popular in the poverty-stricken areas where Menem won elections

in May by landslide margins.

Popularity

Although his rating is considerably lower in Buenos Aires, he has attained popularity levels comparable to those of veteran politicians and labour leaders.

"The economic crisis is pushing Argentines to the right. And as things get worse, people tend to worry only about their most pressing needs," said political scientist Luis Balcarce.

Menem plans to privatise most state-owned companies but the nationalists say that any economic activity related to Argentina's strategic interests, especially the defence, communications and energy sectors, must be under state control.

"You were as right as Time magazine which was where I first read the story. What have you been doing about the Soviet Union?"

"We're very interested in it. There are many significant things going on there right now, and when we find out what is happening we're going to make a report to all our clients."

"I have to know now. If I can't figure out what the Soviet Union is doing, I won't be able to decide how much business the Defence Department is going to throw my way. You owe it to me to give me the scoop on daily events in the Kremlin."

Report

"Willard, we have a report on Raisa Gorbachev's dressmaker that will make your hair stand on end."

"When do I see this intelligence?"

"As soon as we get the leather-bound report with your name engraved on it back from the printer. It's a gorgeous presentation if I may say so myself."

"Give me something today that I can go back to my board with to justify your outrageous fee."

"The South Africans are going to release Nelson Mandela from prison."

"They did that last month."

"They did?" Heinrich was truly surprised. "Nobody tells me anything."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

PRESIDENTS of the United States are not the only ones who hire soothsayers to tell them what the future will bring. Large corporations also sign up former cabinet officers and foreign policy experts to warn them what to expect around the globe. These experts don't come cheap. They're worth it. From Moscow to Mandela, it's been one triumph after another for global consultants.

Occasionally, there are misunderstandings. I was sitting in the anteroom of Heinrich Applebaum's "Made-to-Order Quality Predictions" when Willard Dergen, CEO of Star-Dust Avionics, charged in. He wanted to know about the overthrow of the old regime in Czechoslovakia and its replacement with a playwright, when he had paid Heinrich a fee of \$750,000.

Heinrich smiled, as he usually does when stuck in a corner, and replied: "We didn't want to bother you with something so insignificant. Czechoslovakia is such a little country, it can't affect anything."

Confirmed

Willard spluttered and said, "Why did I have to find out on CNN that Romania was about to fall and its leader had been killed? Your job is to let me know who is going to get killed in Romania."

Willard, we didn't want to go off the deep end until our CIA sources confirmed it for us. One thing we don't do at Applebaum Predictions is fax a client the sake of saving him."

"This may sound strange to you, but I don't like to spend \$2 million a year and not even know about the fall of the Berlin Wall. Why didn't you people inform us that the wall was going to be torn down?"

"The East Germans gave us their word that the wall would stay forever. But they double-crossed us to suck up to West Germany."

"Why didn't your firm predict the collapse of communism in East Germany?"

Germany

"We don't Red-bait. Nobody could have seen that coming. If we had told you last year that there would soon be only one Germany, you would have asked for your money back. weren't you surprised?"

"I pay you so that I won't be surprised. How come I didn't hear from you when Bulgaria went under?"

"We told you that there is a surcharge for information about events in Bulgaria. Willard, were we or weren't we right on Poland?"

"You were as right as Time magazine which was where I first read the story. What have you been doing about the Soviet Union?"

"We're very interested in it. There are many significant things going on there right now, and when we find out what is happening we're going to make a report to all our clients."

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Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

QUOTE ME

"This is not some effort to incur favour. This was a special opportunity for the French to make a contribution to the battle against the dreaded disease."

"I give me something today that I can go back to my board with to justify your outrageous fee."

"To my astonishment, I find from the BBC that Stalin and Brezhnev were 'conservatives'... I had thought they were communists," — puffed Norman Tebbit.

"If we don't commit now, my son and so many others will be casualties in a war that could have won only we had tried harder and moved faster."

Star-Standy and Hutch went emotional testimony before the House of Representatives. Bud gets Committee seeking money for AIDS care.

Kashmir dispute

SIR: Through your esteemed paper I would like to thank the gentleman from Fazahat (name not known) who has kindly returned my lost letter through the post. There are still some great hearted people who show act of kindness.

India deserves the right to self-determination for the Kashmiri people. Sri Lanka is affected by Indian intervention. Nepal is affected by Indian trade blockade. Bangladesh is deadlocked by the co-operation of India in the control of huge flood that originated from India and devastated Bangladesh.

On the other hand India takes interest in the withdrawal of valuable drought season water from the Ganges and thereby effectively takes part in deterioration of life of Bangladesh.

Inside India, discrimination against the lower caste, against the Muslims and against the women is the order of the day.

The struggle of the Kashmiri people for the right to self-determination, the struggle of Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh against Indian expansionism and interference and the struggle of the Indian people for people's democracy are linked on the same thread. All these people should support one another and should not remain neutral.

Mastafizur Rahman,
Safat.

Good Samaritan

SIR: Through your esteemed paper I would like to thank the gentleman from Fazahat (name not known



BA pilot Richard Smith with one of the second-hand sewing machines — the extra baggage — he carries to Gambia.

Building a bridge of understanding

BOSTON: Caroline Chang is often quoted as saying "There's always more to do." It's not a statement of weariness, but of purpose.

Ms. Chang has been a leader in Boston's Asian Community for nearly 20 years. She has won numerous recognitions for her work, most recently the Amelia Earhart Award from the Women's Education and Industrial Union in Boston.

A regional director of the federal office of Civil Rights since 1982, Chang's commitment to civil rights is rooted in her role as a community activist in Boston's Chinatown. There, she has helped unify Asians of different descent and developed programmes to help the community. Among them: the Massachusetts Asian American Forum (rights advocacy, education), the Asian Community Development Corporation (housing, business development), and the Chinese Golden Age Centre (drop-in centre for the elderly).

In an interview in her modest office on the 24th floor of the John F. Kennedy Building here, Chang talked about the changes and challenges within the Asians community in Boston and the nation at large.

"There's a real overlap" she says, concerning "what are community issues and what are civil rights issues." Community issues are the same for everyone — safety, jobs and housing. But the degree of the problems are different when you are dealing with race, language and culture," she says.

Estimate

She estimates that today, there are more than 25,000 Chinese alone in this diverse, 75,000,000-member Asian community. Not only are there "traditional" Asian populations (Chinese, Japanese, Korean) but also many Southeast Asians — Cambodian, Vietnamese, Laotian.

Chang's leanings toward community activism go back to her Chinatown upbringing. "My father was one of the few people in the community who knew English well enough to be a translator for people," she says. Since he was constantly helping community members, Chang naturally followed his example. Some of her early accomplishments after co-founding Chinese-American Civic Association in 1967 and the South Cove Community Health Centre in 1973. She served as the manager of the Chinatown Little City Hall from 1970-1974.

Her role, she adds, is as a "bridge to understanding." (Christina Science Monitor)



Caroline Chang: championing the cause of Asians in Boston

Flying....on a mission of mercy

One man's charity in Gambia

BIG-hearted Captain Richard Smith takes more than just passengers when he pilots his British Airways Tristar to the Third World.

For the caring airman flies a mission of mercy delivering second-hand sewing machines to the needy in Africa.

Richard, who wanted to make his week-long stopovers in Gambia more worthwhile, hit on the idea after spotting two old sewing machines at a local car-boot sale.

Richard, 53, said: "When I thought the sewing machines, I wanted to send them where they would do the most good, so I phoned the Christian Missionary Society in London. I asked them if they had anyone in Gambia who would benefit from the sewing machines. And they had an Anglican training centre in Farafennia which is 120 miles up-river from Gambia's capital, Banjul.

They have a missionary there who is teaching the locals how to farm efficiently to get the best out of their land. And his wife is a seamstress and runs sewing classes for the locals."

Richard, a grandfather of three, has been to Banjul more than twice a month during the past year and has delivered nine second-hand sewing machines to contacts in the city who sent the machines up-river. He took the machines one at a time in his hand luggage on the plane.

"It was simply a Christian response to a need," said Richard. "It is a very poor

country and it does not have the money to import things like sewing machines."

As we talked at his home in East Grinstead, Sussex, Richard showed me the tenth sewing machine that he will take to Gambia next month (March). Richard explained: "It's from about 1907. Most of the sewing machines I've taken out there have been pre-World War One.

Serviced

"Before I take them out, they are all fully serviced by the local agent. He refused the £10 servicing fee for the first six machines when he heard they were going out to Gambia. In the end, I had to insist he take the money and even then he reduced the service charge."

Now the machines are being used at the missionary centre to teach locals how to make their own clothes.

"My Bible classes started by accident," he said. "When you're walking on the beach in Gambia, you always meet locals. The Gambians are very friendly people and will come and talk to you."

"But there is no doubt some of them want to make friends with Europeans merely for financial support. They see people arriving in Gambia spending what to them is huge sums of money and they hope a little may come their way, which is human nature."

"They will ask you for almost anything and they're quite brash about it. They'll say, 'I like your trainers. When you go home, will you let me have them?' Or they will ask for text-books and pens for their children's education."

"In fact, that seems to be what's going on up at Farafennia, where most of the machines have gone. They are helping to supplement their own incomes by making clothes for other people."

Richard proudly shows off a wooden carved head on his living-room wall. It was a present from the sewing class at the missionary centre to show their appreciation.

Committed

As a committed Christian, he has also used his stopovers in Gambia to spread the good word. He gives Bible classes on the beach and claims he has converted more than 20 young Gambians to Christianity during the past year.

"My Bible classes started by accident," he said. "When you're walking on the beach in Gambia, you always meet locals. The Gambians are very friendly people and will come and talk to you."

"But there is no doubt some of them want to make friends with Europeans merely for financial support. They see people arriving in Gambia spending what to them is huge sums of money and they hope a little may come their way, which is human nature."

"They will ask you for almost anything and they're quite brash about it. They'll say, 'I like your trainers. When you go home, will you let me have them?' Or they will ask for text-books and pens for their children's education."

"What I did when they asked me was to say, 'Well, I haven't got any of those but I'll give you a present from England.' And I would give them a pocket-sized testament."

"The Africans are naturally a spiritual people. You don't have to argue with them about the existence of God. It is only a question of which one's the right religion."

"My Bible classes started off with two people. I sometimes have half a dozen in a class but never more because of the time element. I have them at 10 o'clock in the morning, then at five in the afternoon. People have been turning up because they know I'm there."

So how many students in his classes have converted to Christianity? "It must be getting on to a couple of dozen now," he said. "I think what I have done is small but I think it is important to them. I have had immense satisfaction from the classes."

"It is a great privilege to teach them. They are such lovely, friendly people. It is not a question of foisting religion on them — I started giving out a few gospels and had dozens of people clamouring for copies."

Unfortunately British Airways is taking the Tristar off the Gambia route in March and Richard will be flying to other countries.

Richard said: "I have a lot of friends in Gambia, black and white, and I will miss them terribly but I am keeping in touch by letter."



Richard Harris (Mr Peachum) in full song with Julie Walter (Mrs Peachum)

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: Does Legionnaires disease, named in honour of America's war veterans, have anything to do with the terrible lung disease suffered by the troops who served in France during World War I? My father used to tell us about those conditions, and he died from the long-term complications of the pneumonia he caught there.

ANSWER: It seems we have a little confusion here, and the mixing of two stories. Legionnaires disease is a disease that first attacked 182 members of the American Legion who were meeting in a Philadelphia hotel during this nation's bicentennial celebration in 1976. A new form of acute respiratory disease was seen in these people, some of whom developed pneumonia. Despite the use of antibiotics and other medications, 29 of these patients eventually died.

The cause of the disease was unknown at that time, and it

took almost six months of medical detective work by

members of the Centers for Disease Control and the

Pennsylvania State Department of Health before the

bacteria was discovered. It was found lurking in the cooling

tower of the hotel's air conditioning system. The bacteria

was given the name "Legionella pneumophila," the first

name derived from the American Legion, first victims of

the infections, and "pneumophila" because the bacteria

seems to "like lungs."

The bacteria seems to prefer living in water and is more

resistant to chlorine and elevated water temperatures than

other bacteria. It has been found everywhere, and may be

transmitted from contaminated plumbing lines, showers,

condensers and cooling towers, as well as improperly

cleaned humidifiers, respiratory therapy devices and

whirlpools. It can be prevented by increasing the chlorina-

LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE WAS DISCOVERED IN RECENT YEARS

tion of water conditioning systems and elevating the temperature of water heating and storage facilities. It is treated with the antibiotic erythromycin.

I am at a loss to identify your father's disease from the information contained in your letter. It may be that his lung disease and the stories could be the result of poison gas attacks which occurred during World War I, taking toll in lives and complications of the respiratory and nervous systems.

I thought you would like to know: If you are just a bit confused about the health benefits of adequate fibre in your diet, you're not alone. Recommendations for a daily consumption of as much as 25 to 30 grams of fibre per day may be found in many publications, and it is widely accepted that Americans consume an average of 11 grams a day. Almost daily I receive requests for food lists that indicate the amount of fibre in various foods, indicating a high level of interest in this question.

Some of the answers are provided in an informative pamphlet titled Focus on Fibre, provided by General Mills Inc. Address your request to Focus on Fibre, P.O. Box 5277, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55460. In addition to a description of water soluble and insoluble fibres, it provides general information about the benefits of fibre in the diet. Several pages of lists indicate the quantity of fibre in breads, cereals and pasta, cooked legumes, vegetables, and fruits and nuts.

Once you are aware of these amounts, you may begin to plan your daily menu with fibre in mind, and work towards attaining the amounts recommended by the National Cancer Institute.



Mack the Knife (Raul Julia)... at the end of a rope

Chimps declared endangered species

Protection needed

WASHINGTON (UPI): The US government has declared wild chimpanzees an endangered species, a move that will provide additional federal protection for man's closest animal relative, officials say.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service had classified the primate as a "threatened" species, but officials said additional protection was needed in view of recent studies documenting a drastic decline in the population of wild chimps in Africa.

The endangered status designation also was extended to the pygmy chimpanzee, which despite its name is about the same size as the chimpanzee but with a narrower chest and bigger lower limbs.

The chimpanzee has disappeared from five of the 25 African countries that represent its historic range and its population has fallen from an all-time high of about two million to a current estimate of 175,000 because of overhunting and loss of habitat to man.

The pygmy chimpanzee lives only in Zaire and experts estimate its population at 15,000.

Elizabeth Lipcomh, a spokeswoman for the Fish and Wildlife Service, said that by granting endangered status, the government was outlawing the importation of any chimps taken from the wild.

The move, first disclosed in a little-

noticed federal register notice earlier this week, comes in response to a petition filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by the World Wildlife Fund, the Humane Society of the United States and Jane Goodall, the renowned chimpanzee researcher.

In the November 1987 petition, Goodall said the continued removal of infant chimps from the wild was driving the ape to the verge of extinction in Africa.

She also said chimps were threatened by increasing contact with humans because they can contract many of the same diseases that afflict humans.

Because chimps are so physiologically close to humans, they are extremely valuable in biomedical research, especially AIDS studies, and public health officials have expressed concern about restricting their use.

As a result, the Fish and Wildlife Service specifically exempted the 1,100 to 1,450 captures chimpanzees now held at US biomedical facilities from the endangered status designation.

Captive chimps will remain classified as "threatened," a designation that places tight restrictions on importation and other uses. Lipcomh said any additional chimps needed for research would be obtained from captive chimps breeding programmes either in the United States or abroad.

Burly, bearded Richard Pett looks after the kids while wife Gerry brings home the beef

Supermum is the word for 6 ft redhead—with a beard!

By Francis Hubbard

THE title Supermum has just been won by a 6ft. redhead with size-10 feet—and a beard!

Burly husband Richard Pett may lack womanly charms but he has beaten off strong female opposite to take the top spot.

Richard once spent his days sawing planks and knocking in nails. Now, as befits his new status, you'll find him pushing prams or reading fairy stories to his daughters.

The 35-year-old father-of-two found himself battling it out for the Supermum award after his wife Gerry secretly put his name forward for the contest run by a national magazine and a dairy-products firm.

She wanted to say thank you for his years as a devoted full-time father and house-husband while she has supported the family by doing a job she loves.

Richard had no idea she had entered him for the competition which drew more than 1,000 entries, until a local newspaper rang with the news. Even then, he never dared to know he would win...

"I'm still in shock," he told me. "I've been totally overwhelmed by the whole thing—but I'm very happy to have won. To be honest, I'm chuffed to be called a 'supermum,' even if 'superdad' would be a more accurate description."

"Maybe I attracted attention because of my novelty value. I've sure the other entrants were just as good as I am. I won't make any special claims for my talents but it's nice to know I'm appreciated."

Chances

Gerry, a high-flying tax expert with an accountancy firm, was more confident about her husband's chances of scooping a prize. She said: "It was never meant as a joke. I really think he deserves the title."

"As mothers go, he's excellent at the job. There are probably a lot of women who couldn't do it as well as he does. I'm sure I couldn't."

Richard, who is a skilled carpenter, volunteered to leave his job four years ago when daughter Rachel was born. He and Ann had decided long before that he was the best suited to playing immunity.

The family needed Ann's income to survive, so she returned to work while Richard took charge of domestic affairs. He switched, without a murmur, from making gates to changing nappies. And when Vicky—now 20 months—came along, he was happy to keep holding the babies.

Speciality

He told me: "I enjoy being at home. I really do love to spend time with my children. Rachel, Vicky and I have a pretty good routine worked out for the week."

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Rachel goes to playschool Wednesdays, she has a short lesson with a speech therapist and Fridays, we go shopping. That leaves Monday as my day of rest.

The housework is something I fit in at random. The vacuuming, washing up and dusting all get done eventually in my own time. I'm not up with a mop at 7.30 every morning but I do keep things pretty well in order."

But Richard has his domestic hates like everybody else: "I



(Above): Little Vicky Pett decides to give her Supermum dad a hand with the washing. (Left): Washing dishes is all part of a day's work for Richard.



Vicky Pett, 20 months old, shows sister Rachel who's boss. Richard and Gerry keep mum.

loathe the ironing," he admitted.

"I've had long enough to practise but I still seem to get more creases into the clothes than out of them. On the other hand, I'm not a bad cook. My speciality is anything that can be served up from one pan. I get quite inspired about mixing up different flavours to see what the result will be—usually pretty good in the end, if I say so myself."

With touching pride, he added: "We had a big dinner for 12 last week and I did all the catering. It turned out quite well—no-one complained, anyway."

"It makes financial sense for

Richard and Gerry were both in full-time jobs when they married eight years ago. From the start, they made a point of sharing household tasks. Reversing the traditional male and female roles was simply another measure of their equality.

But even in these days of "new men," Richard is a rarity. Gerry never takes him for granted. She told me: "I'm very lucky to have him and I know it. My friends are envious that I have such an understanding husband and I think a few of them would like him for themselves!"

All the same, it is hard to believe Richard made the transi-

tion from carpenter to Supermum without being teased. He admitted: "I've had some terrible sticks over this award from my mates in the pub."

"They find the idea of me pushing a Hoover around pretty hilarious and they can't resist making cracks about me getting home to cook the supper. On the whole, it's good-natured banter. Once people recover from their initial surprise, they're quite appreciative of what I do."

"Sometimes, though, I'll bump into an ex-workmate and he'll ask, 'Haven't you got a job yet?' Little things like that make me

feel like that make me

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Seminar on banking and finance

Monetary reform freezes over \$100b

SAO PAULO, March 18, (Reuter): Fleeing from hyperinflation, Brazil's new government has introduced one of history's most draconian monetary reforms and frozen more than \$100 billion of individuals' and companies' money.

Most of the liquidity in Brazil is now frozen for the next 18 months. The government's aim is to kill inflation, which in February reached a record monthly rate of nearly 73 per cent.

The reform, announced by President Fernando Collor de Mello on Friday, the day after he took office, stunned the country and is practically the only topic of conversation.

"I consider it confiscation," said Antonio Carlos Coutinho, who saved for years to build a petrol station and now has to shave his plate.

The government has said that a maximum of 50,000 new cruzados in existing current and savings accounts can be withdrawn before September 1991 and converted into the newly created cruzado — Brazil's fourth currency in as many years.

This sum is worth less than \$1,200 at official rates and cannot even buy a second-hand car. Sao Paulo's normally busy market for second-hand cars was dead this weekend.

An opinion poll published by the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper showed a majority in favour of Collor's emergency plan, which also included new taxes on large fortunes, gold and stock market profits and five-year jail terms for people charging exaggerated prices. Several state bodies, including the Brazilian Coffee Institute, were abolished.

The Folha de Sao Paulo poll, published today, said 58 per cent thought the measures good for the country.

For the first time in Brazil, a government has brought in an economic reform which clearly hits the rich hardest.

Collor, a young, charismatic populist who beat a socialist to reach the presidency, received many of his votes from the poor. They are delighted with his measures.

"It is the rich who are going to lose," said Rio taxi driver Adailio Carvalho Silva. "At last I feel proud to be Brazilian."

The plan's possible effects on the economy are already being hotly debated.

Antonio Kandir, the new government's economic policy secretary, said on television last night that the monetary reform froze between \$100 and 115 billion of the 150 billion in bank and savings accounts.

With most money taken out of circulation prices cannot keep rising as they have done. But the new concerns now include citizens' rights and recession.

One of Brazil's most eminent jurists, Ivo Gaudra Martins, said in today's O GLOBO newspaper: "As a jurist I have the duty to say that these measures represent a brutal violence against society."

Saudis put a stop to UAE re-exports

(Continued from Page 1)

Saudi Arabia was the biggest GCC market for the UAE re-exports and the second biggest world-wide after Iran.

Traders blamed influential factory owners in Saudi Arabia of pressuring the decision, to stop the low price goods coming from the UAE and affecting their profits.

They said they would have to seek other markets such as the Yemenis, otherwise their re-exports would be halved.

But the traders ruled out the possibility of turning these re-exports toward Iran which in 1989 received 1.6 billion dirhams (\$435 million) worth of goods, because of import restrictions there.

The Saudi decision has been so strictly implemented that goods have been returned from the Sila border centre to Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and traders have started suspending their re-exports to Saudi Arabia awaiting UAE-Saudi official contacts.

Most affected trade was that established in Dubai's Jebel Ali free trade zone, as it was not considered domestic product, the officials said.

However, the same economy officials voiced optimism over reaching a compromise with Saudi Arabia, as direct contacts have been intensified between the two countries to solve the problem, they said.

In Saudi Arabia, no official was available for comment.

Bright forecast for Gulf banks

By M.C. Bose
Business editor

ANDREW CUNNINGHAM, MEED's specialist on banking has said Gulf banking and finance is looking better now, at the beginning of 1990, than it has for many years. Most institutions which have declared their results for 1989 have shown increased profits and this trend is expected to continue as more results are published during the next few weeks. There have been some hiccups, notably Gulf International Bank, which declared a loss of nearly \$600 million as a result of loan loss provisioning, but the overall picture is very optimistic.

He said higher priority is being given to good management and tighter controls are being imposed on credit. Bottom line profitability is being given priority over asset size.

While addressing a Kuwait seminar on Gulf banking and finance, Cunningham said the banking systems in the six GCC countries are almost entirely self contained. National Bank of Kuwait does not have a branch in the UAE. National Bank of Bahrain does not have a branch in Saudi Arabia. There are a few cross-border shareholdings, mostly involving Kuwaiti institutions, but they are highly exceptional. Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait — Bahrain's biggest bank in terms of assets is partly owned by Kuwaiti institutions. Bahrain and Kuwait institutions own parts of Bank of Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait. But the clear underlying structure of GCC banking is that we have six systems which are effectively standing alone.

There is little prospect of that position changing in the next five years. Gulf banking markets are overcrowded and central banks are unwilling to allow foreign competitors to take business away from their own institutions," he added.

Cunningham said there are six banking systems in the Gulf. Perhaps we should say seven, since the Bahraini offshore market is markedly different from any other in the region. The Bahraini offshore banks focus entirely on cross border business and have significant international exposure. Although they are regulated by the Bahrain Monetary Agency, which also regulates Bahrain's commercial banks, they cannot be compared to other financial institutions in Bahrain.

All the GCC economies are capital exporters. The wealth of Gulf citizens has outstripped the opportunities for investment in Gulf economies. Finding suitable assets is more of a problem than attracting deposits. Despite the downturn in the Gulf economies during the late 1980s, there is no prospect that the Gulf's status as a capital exporting area will change.

Most of the GCC economies are linked to the US dollar. Some are technically linked to the SDR, but effectively tied to the dollar. Only Kuwait uses a basket of currencies so that its currency's value can fluctuate from week to week. Even so, it



Andrew Cunningham addresses the seminar and MEED's local co-ordinator P.B.V. Rajan presents a paper on Arab industries.

is believed that the dollar is the most important element in the basket which makes up the dinar's value.

The demographic structure of the GCC states is very similar. The population of all the GCC states is small in relation to their size. Most of the population is concentrated in towns, with the result that people are accessible to local banks and able to take advantage of new products and services. The net worth of Gulf banking customers is also uniformly high.

He said regulations covering the operation of banks in individual countries differ widely, but there are now moves to harmonise them, particularly with respect to capital adequacy requirements. Harmonisation will take some time to achieve, but genuine progress can be expected during the 1990s. Gulf banks have shared the experience of starting operations at a time of great capital surplus, and of then having to cope with very difficult economic circumstances as the oil price plummeted in the mid-1980s. In recent years, all have faced up to the need to rationalise their operations to take account of more straightforward circumstances.

He said the first point to note is the clear dominance of the three biggest banking markets, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE. Each one of them can boast more assets or deposits than the three smallest countries combined. The size of the UAE banking system is worth noting. We rarely see UAE banks taking a high profit in the Gulf, and they were not part of the expansion in Gulf banks' overseas representation which occurred at the end of the 1980s. The size of the UAE banking market reflects the number of banks in the federation — there are nearly

20 foreign banks registered in the UAE as well as 19 local banks — and also the high level of deposits, particularly in Abu Dhabi.

A Western banker looking for business opportunities in the Gulf could be excused for thinking that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE would be the only markets worth considering. Such an attitude would be profoundly mistaken, however, as we can see from an analysis of the market share of the biggest Gulf institution.

Cunningham told the seminar Kuwait is one of the more balanced market. The biggest bank, National Bank of Kuwait, holds about 30 per cent of the banking assets in the country. This would be slightly less if we include Kuwait Finance House. The other commercial banks are roughly the same size — The Gulf Bank, the second biggest bank had assets at the end of 1988 of KWD 1,063 million compared to KWD 1,063 million for Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East, the smallest bank.

This pattern is not repeated in Saudi Arabia where National Commercial Bank — the biggest commercial bank in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf as a whole accounts for about 50 per cent of total banking assets in the kingdom. In the UAE the two biggest banks, National Bank of Abu Dhabi and National Bank of Dubai represent about 39 per cent of total banking assets. Both are about twice the size of the next biggest institution, Dubai-based Bank of Oman, which is by no means an insignificant institution.

In Qatar, the biggest bank, Qatar National Bank dwarfs the other institutions, taking 50 per cent of total banking assets. In Bahrain, the two biggest institutions, Bank of

Bahrain and Kuwait and National Bank of Bahrain, have about 78 per cent of commercial banking assets. In Oman the leading bank has 26 per cent of the market. The biggest four banks account for 53 per cent.

The gap between the leading, large, Gulf banks and the smaller banks is likely to grow during the 1990s. The bigger institutions will be able to afford to invest in new technological products and expand overseas, while the smaller banks will have to remain content with local operations.

He said while considering the relative sizes of Gulf banks it is worthwhile pausing for a moment to look at the Bahraini offshore banks, whose importance is frequently overestimated. Arab Banking Corporation and Gulf International Bank both count as leading Gulf financial institutions, but other Bahraini-incorporated offshore banks are relatively small, with assets of around \$1 billion or less.

The original role for the offshore banks — that of lending into Saudi Arabia for the construction boom — is largely over and Bahrain's role as an intermediary between Far Eastern and European foreign exchange markets is being threatened.

The lines of comparison become less clear when we consider the next three potential points of difference between Gulf banks — international and local activity, profitability and lack of profitability; and retail rather than corporate emphasis.

"I have no difficulty in assessing that the Gulf has only one international bank, Arab Banking Corporation in Bahrain. Of course, other banks have substantial international operations, but ABC is the only Gulf bank which refers to itself

as an international bank. Gulf International Bank and National Bank of Kuwait both see themselves as regional rather than international banks and their ambitions is to extend their operations in the Gulf rather than in international markets.

National Commercial Bank of Saudi Arabia also has substantial overseas activities, but the bank clearly views them as a way of strengthening its services within the kingdom," Cunningham added.

The Bahraini offshore banks and the Saudi joint venture banks can claim a high degree of international involvement, and Kuwaiti commercial banks have also been active in expanding overseas. Nevertheless, the majority of Gulf institutions remain overwhelmingly focused on regional or local institutions.

He said a more uniform picture emerges when we consider profitability of Gulf banks. As we noted earlier, most banks are expected to declare healthy profits for 1989 and show continuing improvement during 1990. In the late 1980s many banks had to declare losses as a result of heavy loan loss provisioning. Some had to write down their shareholders' equity as a result. Most of the banks which experienced serious problems have now recovered, or are at least on the road to recovery.

Saudi British Bank declared its expected profits and dividend for 1989, after two years of losses. United Saudi Commercial Bank has recovered its profitability after switching cuts in expenditure and staffing. Saudi Cairo Bank has begun the painful process of rebuilding its capital base, although it will be many years before the bank is able to declare a profit. Question marks remain over Bank Al Jazira

lives outside the main towns in areas which are still underbanked.

The drive to introduce automated teller machines (ATM) services and investment funds for smaller investors indicates that banks still see considerable potential in the retail market. Retail banking involves high overheads, however, and those institutions which are already strong in the market are likely to become stronger.

Corporate banking also is subject to technological innovation. But here the smaller banks stand a better chance of maintaining reasonable market share, since companies tend to distribute their custom to a variety of banks. The gaps between the 1990s, as a first division of regionally and internationally oriented banks emerges in contradistinction to a second division of locally oriented institutions.

The seminar was jointly organised by the Kuwait SAS Hotel, MEED's local agent and MEED Publishing Co. Ltd, UK. Top banking officials, investment experts and market analysts attended the seminar.

Ralph J. Williams of NBK presented a paper on electronic banking while Dr Amal El Tigan of the Kuwait University presented a paper on what businessmen can expect from banks other than credit. Pamela Smith prepared a paper on Arab industries and it was delivered by MEED's local delegate P.B.V. Rajan. Meanwhile, so exhibits of banking products and books on banking and finance was also organised at SAS Tent Foyer. The seminar will continue today also.

Iranian oil minister likely to visit Kuwait

Opec discord may depress oil prices

VIENNA, March 18, (Reuter): Opec oil ministers are playing down the threat of a slide in oil prices, even though their output quota system remains in disarray after two days of talks.

They ended the weekend meeting with a statement merely reaffirming adherence to an existing accord on production curbs which has been violated in the past by several of the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Several ministers, however, did not seem to think consumers would get much of a price cut at the pump.

Opec hopes peak gasoline buying in the northern hemisphere's

summer holidays and the usual autumn demand for heating fuel will accelerate an upturn in world demand for oil.

The upturn is eliminating a glut which existed for much of the last decade. Last year US imports of Opec oil rose by a quarter.

Market experts broadly agreed with the Opec ministers on the outlook for prices.

"I see a reasonably brief period of weakness but no crash," said a senior Western oil company executive.

Mehdi Varzi, an analyst who follows Opec for London stock-

brokers Kleinwort Benson, said he thought "prices are near the bottom now." Fine weather in Europe promised an early start to the summer motoring season, he said.

Beyond the next few weeks, the question is how long producers like Kuwait and the UAE will continue to try to use the leverage of their big output capacity to stop prices rising faster.

Traditional pricing "hawks" Iran, Libya and Algeria say Opec should raise its target price from 18 to possibly \$20, perhaps as early as its next meeting on May 25.

each year than the government takes in.

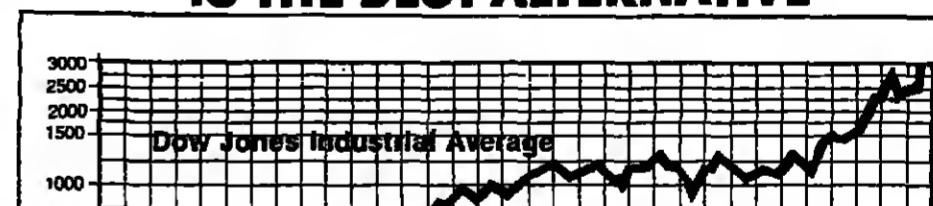
Although they placed some controls on themselves a few years ago by passing the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction law, the deficit will be an estimated \$123.8 billion this year if nothing is done to change it. The target set by the Gramm-Rudman law is \$100 billion.

The President's \$1.2 trillion proposed budget for fiscal 1991, which starts on Oct 1, calls for a deficit of \$63.1 billion, but critics say it relies too heavily on rosy economic projections.

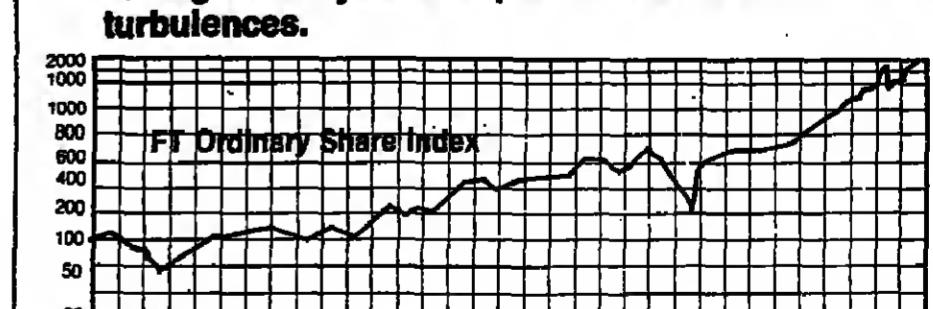
White House budget director Richard Darman, in testimony to Congress during the week, said the administration may have to revise its 1991 deficit forecast to at least \$70 billion because of the slowdown in economic growth.

Bush's willingness to negotiate on the budget issue was underscored by Darman and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, who told a congressional panel on Wednesday that the administration was prepared to be flexible.

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Updated first aid kit gets go-ahead

BRITISH Airways has just spent two and a half years researching a product which they hope will never be used by any of their 25 million passengers.

The result is a new emergency first aid kit containing the most comprehensive range of medical equipment ever carried on a British Airways aircraft. It has been developed jointly by British Airways' medical services and the medical company Aeromedic Innovations Ltd.

The Civil Aviation Authority is now working closely with the airline with a view of making the new kit standard requirement for the aviation industry.

As well as the latest drugs and first aid equipment, the kit also contains detailed medical information and a special labelling system to record every time an item is used.

The kit is split into separate sections — one for use by cabin crew and the other restricted to use by qualified doctors.

Last year doctors assisted in over 400 of the medical incidents reported on British Airways aircraft. By analysing the treatment administered in each case the airline's medical services branch could see what equipment and drugs needed to be carried.

Over 18 new injectable drugs have been included to deal with problems such as heart and respiratory conditions, allergic reactions, gastric problems and diabetes.

Another important addition is a newly-developed sub-lingual spray which can act on the pain associated with angina in 30 seconds.

The administration of this drug is just one element of the extensive medical training which all British Airways cabin crew including mouth-to-mouth and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

The medical kit is now being introduced across the airline's fleet.

Kuwait deposit market quiet

KUWAIT, March 18, (Reuters): Dealers reported a quiet day in Kuwait's dinar deposits market today with little trading in the short rates.

The overnight was seen at around 8-3/8 1/4 following a week of liquidity in that market. Tomorrow's next was at 8-1/2 1/4 while spot-next and one week were 8-5/8 3/8.

Fixed periods were little changed and were seen between 8-3/4 9/16 and 8-13/16 9/16.

The Central Bank left its dinar exchange rate at 0.2913/23 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal interbank deposits were steady in a typically dull market, with many offshore operators absent due to the European weekend.

Dealers said the market remained liquid due to a steady influx of government payments in the past few weeks.

Spot-next and one-week were both quoted at eight, 7-1/2 per cent. The one-month was unchanged at eight, 7-3/4, three-months at 8-1/4, eight and six-months at 8-7/16, 5/16.

Hamad opens Electro '90

KUWAIT, March 18, (Kuna): Commerce and Industry under-secretary Abdullah Hamad Al Hamad today inaugurated the Electro '90 exhibition organised by the Kuwait International Fair Fair Grounds in Mishrif.

Al Hamad, in a press statement after opening the fair, said that the exhibition has grouped the most advanced electronics equipment produced by international factories.

He praised the efforts exerted to arrange the displayed items and pointed out that prices had been carefully monitored so as to avoid an increase in their value.

Twenty six companies and local agents are taking part in the week-long exhibition.

Polyethylene plant to be built

JAKARTA, March 18, (Opecna): Two Japanese companies have announced that they will jointly build a polyethylene plant in Indonesia with an installed capacity of 200,000 tonnes annually.

According to industry sources in Tokyo, the two firms, Mitsui and Sumitomo — will sign a co-operation agreement next month with British Petroleum and Areset Petrokimia of Indonesia for the construction of the plant.

The plant, the first of its kind to be built in Indonesia, will cost \$100 million to complete. Just over half the project cost will come from BP with Areset Petrokimia investing most of the remainder.

Major faces delicate high wire act in tough budget

LONDON, March 18, (Reuters): British Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major, the son of a circus trapeze artist, will walk a political and economic tightrope when he presents his first budget on Tuesday.

With both the economy and the ruling Conservative Party in trouble, Major has a tough choice between doing nothing to ease the pain of high inflation and interest rates or prescribing even harsher medicine in the hope it will improve things later.

It will be the first budget speech in the British parliament to be televised, but there is little prospect it will make exciting

viewing. Major, 46, took over as chancellor after the abrupt resignation of Nigel Lawson in October. Despite his circus background, he is known as the dull, grey man of the cabinet and economists are predicting a dull, grey budget.

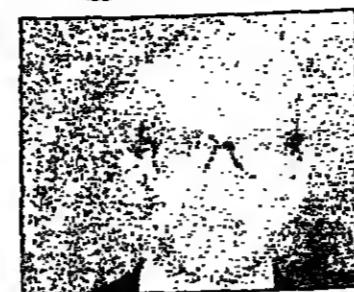
Major is under pressure to pull an economic rabbit out of the hat and reverse the slump in the government's popularity, which has shown a steady downward curve for the past year.

But with economic growth slowing, the trade deficit widening and wage costs rising, he cannot afford to take any action that would fuel inflation.

The Conservatives are trailing the opposition Labour Party by up to 21 points in opinion polls, largely because of a new per capita levy or "poll tax" which will make millions of voters poorer when it comes into force in England and Wales on April 1.

Other economic factors are also worrying the electorate. Inflation is stubbornly high, at a current annual rate of 7.7 per cent, and is expected to rise even higher.

Bank interest rates of 15 per cent are buring the two-thirds of British families which have borrowed money to buy their own homes.



John Major

Unless Major conjures up a miracle, the Conservative look set to suffer a crushing loss to Labour two days after the budget, by losing a ballot for a

parliamentary seat in Central England in the biggest by-election upset for more than 50 years.

"Mr Major's first budget as Chancellor could not come against a more difficult backdrop ... the political fallout from high interest rates, the fear of recession on one hand and the intensification of inflationary pressures on the other," said a report by economist James Capel.

Economists are divided. If the budget is not tough enough, they fear it will force up base interest rates even further. If it is too tough, it will lead to more

government unpopularity and a consequent weakening of sterling.

To avoid increasing the pressure on the economy, Major is expected to increase tax allowances and most excise duties only in line with inflation.

Thatcher has signalled the budget will be tough rather than draconian. Saying there was no question of raising income tax levels, she told parliament that Britain would "continue to have lower tax rates than any time since the last war."

Lawson cut basic tax rates by two per cent and slashed the

higher rate level from 60 to 40 per cent in his 1988 budget.

The Conservatives won their third consecutive general election the previous year largely on the strength of their handling of the economy.

Major is well aware of parts of the budget will be tough rather than draconian. Saying there was no question of raising income tax levels, she told parliament that Britain would "continue to have lower tax rates than any time since the last war."

"This budget is going to be judged in terms of its political astuteness rather than any economic implications," said economist Neil Macmillan.

East-West economic talks in Bonn

Hopes and fears to be highlighted



Helmut Kohl

BONN, March 18, (Reuters): One day after East Germany's first democratic elections, top officials and industrialists from East and West meet in Bonn to discuss the hopes and fears raised by the breakneck pace of Europe's economic integration.

The 35-nation gathering starting tomorrow, an offshoot of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), will be dominated by conflicting emotions generated by collapse of the post-war economic order which divided East and West.

For nations such as Poland, Hungary, the Soviet Union and East Germany, the fear is that their rambunctious economies, drained of investment by decades of central planning, will be swallowed up by the capitalists of Western Europe and North America.

For Western democracies, buoyed by the victory of free enterprise over the centralised economy, the hope of breaking into lucrative new markets of nearly 400 million people is tempered by growing problems with joint ventures and concerns that

events could be moving too fast for comfort.

Nowhere is this felt more strongly than in West Germany as government officials wait to see how quickly East Germany's newly-elected government will pursue the goal of monetary union, widely seen as the first step to a single German state.

"The goal of making East Germany a blossoming industrial area can only be accomplished if the conditions are correct," said Hans Tietmeyer, a director

of the Bundesbank.

"It would be far too high a price if the introduction of the West German mark in East Germany meant that our monetary policy could not remain stable," he told Hessischer Rundfunk radio today. "No one can or wants to pay that price."

The remarks by Tietmeyer, one of West Germany's top monetary officials, underlined the question uppermost in the West: who pays the bill for supporting the East bloc states?

The Bonn conference, to be addressed by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl tomorrow, will last for three weeks, splitting up quickly after opening speeches into four working groups to examine practical problems of economic co-operation.

When the 35 nations — all of Europe except Albania plus the United States and Canada — agreed in early January last year to hold the conference, few governments in East or West could have foreseen the crum-

pling of communist power.

This has given the meeting an added sense of urgency and, with over 1,000 government officials, bankers and industrialists registered, it will be the biggest gathering of East and West since the Berlin Wall fell last November.

Working groups will concentrate on how to increase business contacts, the legal framework for joint ventures, new areas for co-operation such as energy and environment and how to make "soft" East European currencies convertible.

European Economic Community delegates, who met on Sunday to co-ordinate their position, are expected to argue that the East must clarify the legal framework governing Western investment.

Confusion in the Soviet Union, where there are no less than 22 laws or decrees on ventures, and uncertainty in East Germany during the interim administration of communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow, has tempered some of the businessmen's euphoria.

MEXICO CITY, March 18,

(UPI): The Mexican economy, which triggered a Third World debt crisis when it plunged in the early 1980s, grew by 2.9 per cent in 1989 — the highest growth in five years. The Planning and Budget Ministry said yesterday.

A ministry statement said preliminary figures released by the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics indicated that almost all economic sectors showed an upward trend, pushing the annual growth rate on the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 2.9 per cent in 1989 compared to 1988.

The statement did not disclose

the amount of the country's GDP for 1989, but observers say it is expected to be about \$200 billion.

The growth trend shows the economy heading toward the goal set in Mexico's national development plan for the 1989-1994 period, the ministry said.

Since assuming office in December 1988, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has pushed through wide-ranging reforms in the national economy.

The survey points out in concluding inflation the scope for manoeuvrability is limited on the supply side due to reduced stocks of food and foreign exchange reserves.

The solution of inflationary pressure has to be sought principally on the demand side, with particular attention being devoted to correcting the underlying fiscal imbalances.

They include the self-sufficiency in production and consumption of crude oil and petroleum products from the peak attained in 1984-85, the steady erosion of surpluses in invisible account in financing the trade deficit, the unfavourable climate in concessions on assistance and a bunching of debt service payments on past borrowings from diverse external sources, including the IMF. The secular phenomenon of large fiscal deficits has also exerted adverse pressure on the current account external balance.

The continuing strain on balance of payment is reflected in depletion of the country's foreign exchange reserves which stood at Rs 5,5310 million at the end of January, 1990.

The government has been attaching high importance to an improvement in balance of payment situation. This is sought to be achieved through acceleration of export growth, efficient import substitution, reduction of procedural bottlenecks to export and improvements in infrastructural facilities for exports.

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EVENTS

ANNUAL ETHNIC DAY



Kuwait



Egypt



Korea



Palestinian dabkeh



Filipino planting dance



India's booth



Lebanese dabkeh



Some spectators

OVER 1,600 students, staff and parents celebrated the annual Ethnic Day at the Universal American School recently. Displays of handicrafts, costumes and posters were available in each of the 23 booths, along with enough food to feed everyone.

A highlight of the displays was a quilt representing the 50 United States. Students in two fifth grade classes, under the direction of art teacher Joan Rock, designed squares showing a state map and two or three symbols representing the state and then combined the squares

to form a traditional American quilt. The grand parade began at 11:30, with students wearing their national costumes, led by a student carrying the flag of their country as they marched before the audience while their national anthem played. Flags were made by art teacher

Judith Blake, assisted by high school students. The ethnic show followed. Led by Kuwaiti students performing a local dance, students from their countries, including the Palestinian and Lebanese dabke, Egyptian songs and dances,

East Asian dances, Korean tae kwan do, Filipino traditional planting and harvest dances, East Asian folk dances representing Bangladesh and Pakistan, Canadian folk songs, and American folk dance. Joining the students performers was an adult group of Polish musicians.

EXHIBITION

KTV 1

MORNING

9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran

9.40 Sabah Al Kher News

9.50 Cartoon Serial

10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)

10.30 Shuaa min al madhi: Arabic Serial (part 26)

11.45 From my Kitchen: Local programme

12.05 Sabah Al Kher News

12.15 Al Malqoun: Local weekly serial (final part), Starring Abdul Husain Abdul Redha, Mohammed Jaber and Abdullah Khrabit

12.30 News Summary

12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

Evening

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran

4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)

4.45 Saham al fadha: Cartoon Serial

5.15 Mama Anisa and children: local children programme, prepared by Samiya Mohamed and presented by Mama Anisa

5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements

6.00 Wa Qalat Al Arab: Historical serial, starring Mohammed Wafeeq, Hassan Husni, Aliya Abdul Menem

7.00 Varied

7.15 Holy Quran and science: Religious programme (part 2), prepared and Presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi

8.00 Cultural serial

8.30 Good Evening and local news

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Omsiyat Al Ethneen: Local programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Barjess

10.15 Lil adala wajh akhar: Arabic serial (part 6)

10.15 Al Mawed: Variety programme (final part), prepared and presented by Tawfeeq Khallaq

12.15 News summary

12.30 The World Today via Satellite

12.45 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening Announcement & Holy Quran

6.10 Winnie The Pooh: A cartoon series for children

6.30 Wild South "The first born Zoo" A look at the Seal its way of life and growth...

7.00 Roving Report. A weekly round-up of local, Arab and international news.

7.30 Trap. "The Iron Cage" Curiosity leads Pier and his girl-friend Mary to challenge the secret of the existence of monks in a deserted monastery. They are obliged to call the police!!

8.00 News in English 8.30 Around the World. A variety of topics and events from all over the world...

9.30 Tour of Duty. "Sealed with a kiss" Zeke, considers a CIA recruiter's offer to make a lot of money as

a mercenary. He and Goldman go on a dangerous mission with a Navy Seal and find themselves in a jungle without a radio or supplies!

10.30 A Colourised Story. Starring Cary Grant, Catherine Habor. Dexter plans to foil the marriage of "Tracy" his ex-wife ... in the meantime George surprises his fiancee "Tracy" with Dexter's friend...

12.00 News in Brief 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

PRAYERS

Fajr 4.34 am

Zohr 11.56

Asr 3.23 pm

Maghreb 5.59

Isha 7.15

CINEMA

Al Andalus

Arabic film

Al Salmiyah

D.O.A.

Al Hamra

Arabic film

Drive-in

North Shore

Al Firdous

Kanoon Apna Apna

Fahaahej Open

Ghar mein Ram gali mein

Shyam

Fahaahej

Feds

Al Jahra

Combat Killer

Granada

Born Killer

Salabikhhat

Roar

Jeeb

Bhul Bichar

Amjadi Drive-in

Enter the Dragon

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Watercolours of Arabia

Recent watercolours by Patricia Millins on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajah Museum, Jabiya, Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397 or 5318060.

SAS Hotel

EXHIBITION of water colour and oil paintings as well as stained glass at the lobby until March 20.

SOCIAL

Holi — Festival of Colours

THE IAC is celebrating the festival of colours to commemorate the coming of Spring on Thurs 22nd March at Funaiites with a suitable programme. Members and their guests are requested to contact the IAC office (3904817), Sharma (2644863), Ramar (3903879), Mathews (4343329), Srivastava (4898162) or Muishi (2423740) for details and passes. Because of limitations, passes are available on first-come-first-serve basis.

Ladies International League of Kuwait upcoming events

LIL Desert Picnic on Friday, March 23, 1990. Members and their guests. For further information and tickets please contact Barbara on 5325131. Deadline for tickets is March 17.

Daniella Desert Rally

The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik — Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre presents "Oh Clarence", a comedy by John Chapman, adapted from the books of P.G. Wodehouse. Gala Night is on March 19, 1990, at 7.30 pm with other performances on March 20, 21 and 22 at 8.00 pm. Tickets can be booked by pbon 3913755.

Badesik Picnic

Bangladesh Diploma Engineers' Society in Kuwait (Badesik) has organised its annual picnic to be held in Mangaf family beach on March 23. The events included the prize distribution of recently completed indoor games and the children sports to be played on the spot. Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait K.M. Shehazuddin will be the chief guest.

All Badesik members are requested to contact general secretary Khalilur Rahman on tel 4330025 for more details.

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Bangladesh get-together

A NUMBER of Bangladeshi families will hold a spring get-together at the Rawda Park, Damascus Street on March 23.

The day-long programme, which starts at 8 am, will include children's games, ladies and gents games and bingo.

For details, contact telephone 3725312, 4315352, 4715734, or 3713923.

Konkan non-stop show

A Konkan non-stop show entitled Koxit Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Uitora, organised by Uitora Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Salmiya

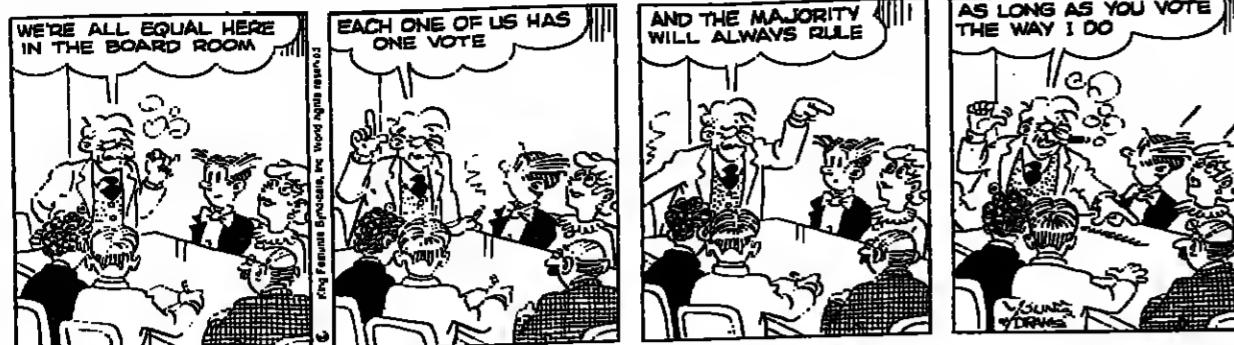
Qurtuba Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street
Fahaahej
Ahmadi Pharmacy
Ahmadi Souk

Khetian

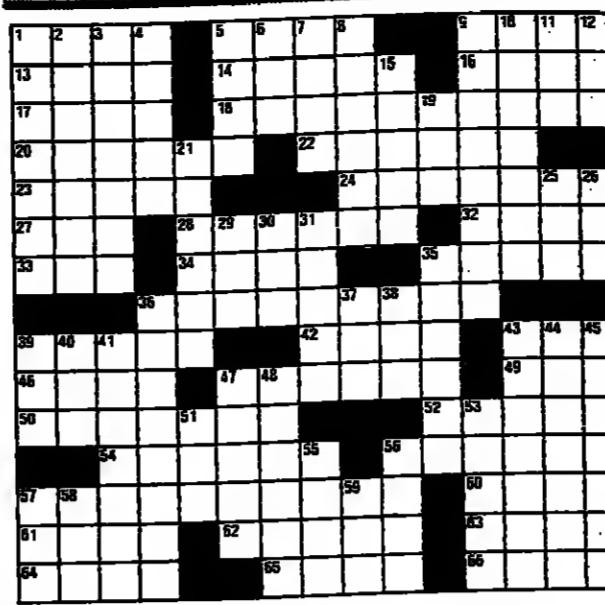
Tawfiq Pharmacy
Southern Street
Jahra
Al Nour Pharmacy
Mafati Street

LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Mers: Comb. form
- 5 Tan: Prefix
- 9 "Saturday Night —"
- 13 Sacred Hindu writings
- 14 Overact
- 16 Rara avis
- 17 News item, for short
- 18 Presidential snake?
- 20 Provides party food
- 22 Part of a BLT sandwich
- 23 Make amends
- 24 Earned
- 27 — Rosenkavalier"
- 28 Humiliator
- 32 Verne's captain
- 33 Predecessor of the CIA
- 34 Stratagem
- 36 Eatery
- 36 Adventurous presidential evader?
- 39 Pungent
- 42 Once more
- 43 By, in Salamanca
- 46 Cell body
- 47 "On — Pond": 1981 film
- 49 One, to Burns
- 50 Cheaper
- 52 Stones
- 54 Two-handed card game
- 56 South American capital
- 57 Amateur presidential baseball teams?
- 60 Actor Jannings
- 61 Poker stake
- 62 Go around the edge
- 63 Appellation

DOWNS

- 1 Guacamole base
- 2 Discount allowances
- 3 Revisers
- 4 Of a cereal grain
- 5 Labor leader Eugene —
- 6 Australian bird
- 7 Outday
- 8 In
- 9 Preoccupied with something
- 10 Two — equals five
- 11 Symbol of triumph
- 12 Go astray
- 15 Feed grain wheat
- 19 Bern's river
- 21 Rise, like Silver
- 25 Scottish uncle
- 26 Rimsky-
- 29 Omni or mini follower
- 30 Wood for skies
- 31 Flower part
- 35 — earth (practical)
- 36 Nesting places
- 37 East of Ill.
- 38 Jackie's sister
- 39 JFK's sight
- 40 — polio
- 41 General pardon
- 43 Mount —
- 44 Calif.: Observatory site
- 45 Former
- 46 Used cars
- 47 Actor Richard and family
- 48 Give — a little (roughly)
- 51 Adjectival suffix
- 53 Hollywood figure
- 55 Sponsorship
- 56 — nome
- 57 Belfry resident
- 58 Dos predeces
- 59 Vese

Korsakov's: "Le Coq" —

Downs

- 14 Three, in Toledo
- 15 —
- 16 —
- 17 —
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North-South vulnerable. South second double is still for taken. However, East had nowhere to go and elected to convert the double to penalties by passing.

West led the king of diamonds and continued with the queen. East, following with the seven and then the eight, declarer ruffed the second round and it was obvious that East had to have all four missing trumps, otherwise West would surely have shifted to a trump. Since East had to be kept off lead, it was vital for declarer to know whether he could ruff his fourth heart or dummy.

After trumping the second diamond, declarer cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart at East produced the five and ten. Declarer ruffed a diamond and then a heart. East following with the two red jacks. When declarer cashed the ace and king of spades, East followed with the three and six.

Declarer decided East had played his cards honestly and that his original distribution had been 3-4-3-4. So declarer ruffed the queen of spades on the table and led another diamond. Whether East ruffed high or low, declarer had to score his queen of trumps as the fulfilling trick.

GROANER

TOO REVEALING

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ 4 2
♥ 6
♦ 10 9 6 4 3
♦ 8 7 6 5 2

EAST
♦ 10 8 7 5
♥ 5 9 4 3
♦ J 10 5
♦ A K Q 5
♦ Void

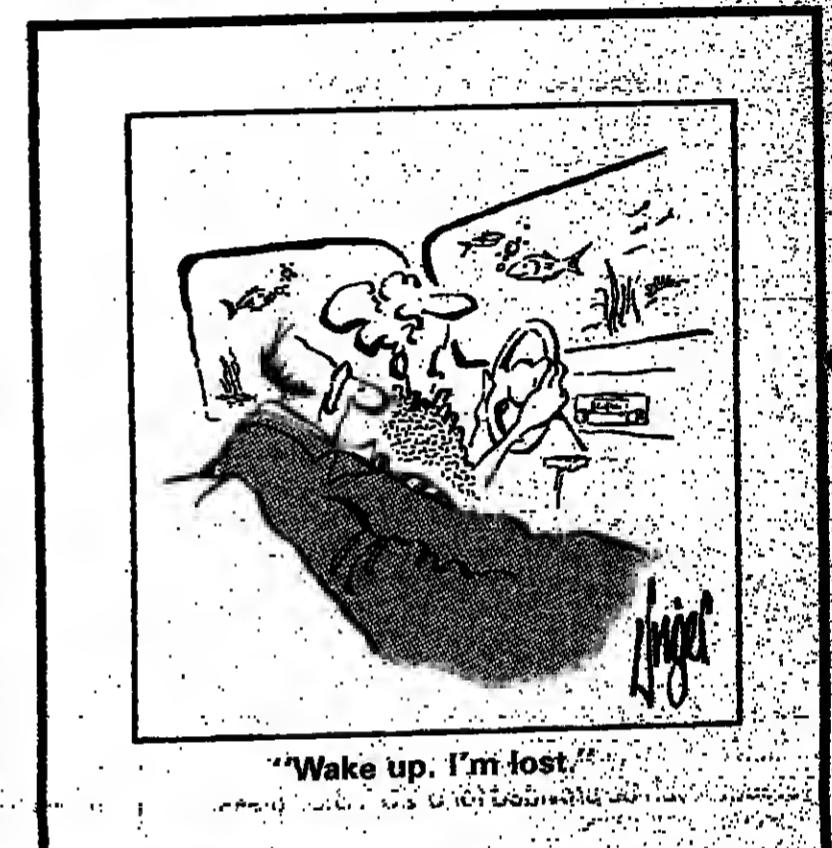
SOUTH
♦ A K Q J
♥ A 8 7 2
♦ 2
♦ Q 10 4 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Dbl 3 ♠ Pass
Pass Dbl Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

On many hands, to achieve optimum results the defenders must convey to each other their respective length in key suits. Sometimes, however, that information can only help declarer. It is then incumbent on the defenders to follow suit randomly so declarer does not get a picture of the distribution.

Since East had not yet bid, West's



"Wake up, I'm lost!"

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dick Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



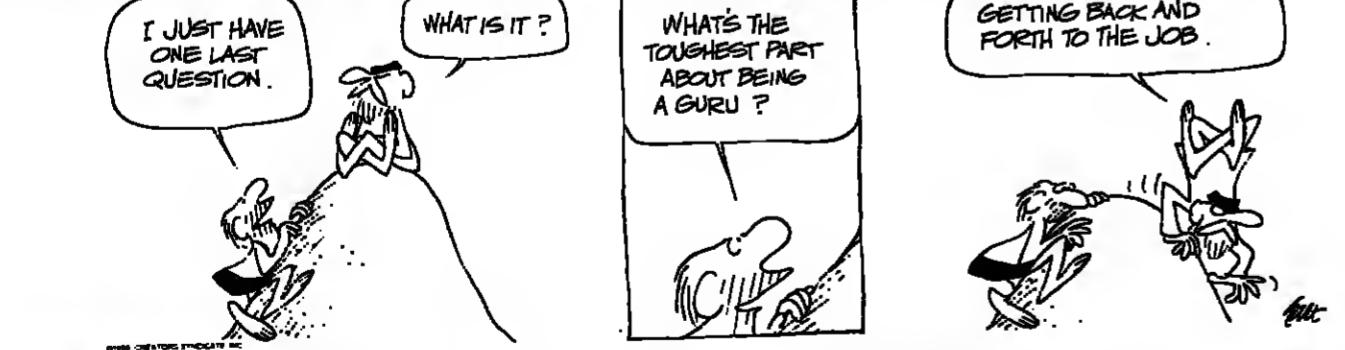
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Foster & J. Shull



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

FIBS OBIT STIRR
LOUT MARY OUISE
OUT OF THIS WORLD
SIGHTS ETNALS
PIBIA CHE HASH
LOVESICK STELLES
ANAT HARTO OSA
IN THE LINE OF OUTY
DIEA DUNES INEE
STRADIS STRINGER
PITA OEN EMS
DIRARE FORUMS
BESLOE THE POINT
ETAL WEIR STOA
YENIS EROS TEEN

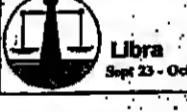
YOUR STARS



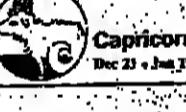
Aries
March 21 - April 20



Cancer
June 21 - July 20



Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22



Capricorn
Dec 23 - Jan 22

You will find it easier to make up your mind and will reach the right decision too. You should resist a tendency to dwell on the past. Avoid blaming other for what is not their fault. Be candid.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20

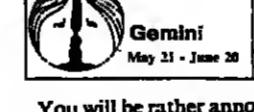


Leo
July 21 - Aug 20

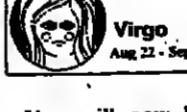


Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

Take things more as they come and reserve your efforts for where they can make the most impact. Pay a little more attention to your health and be more careful about infection. Do not allow sales talk to "take you in". Be a little more reticent.



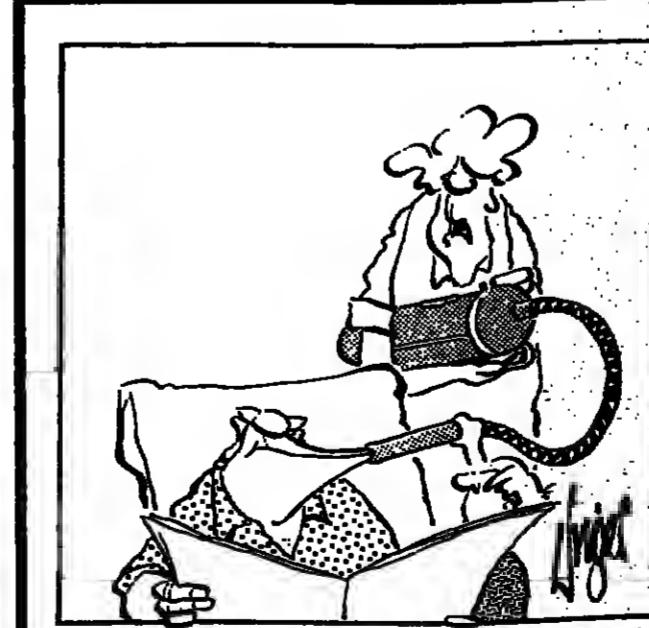
Gemini
May 21 - June 20



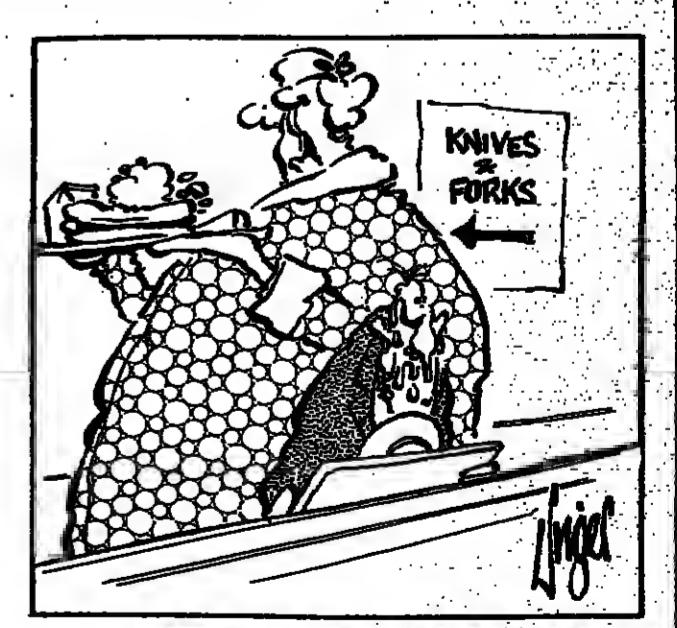
Virgo
Aug 21 - Sept 20

You will be rather annoyed with someone else but should not make too great a fuss about it. Try to restrict yourself to essentials for the moment, details can follow later. Do your best to avoid stress and strain. Be less insistent.

You will now become more familiar with using a new device and you will be greatly relieved as a result. Your lucky numbers are 7 and 24. You should avoid eating so much that you upset your stomach.



"Take that off Dad's face. You've gotta get ready for school."



"Excuse me... you're blocking the aisle!"

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MAIDAN Hawalli, beside the Pullman Hotel, sharing accommodation for a couple or one bachelor. Bus routes 30, 109, 14. Rent KD60. Tel. Raju, 2403747, 9 am - 5 pm. (AT1-51927-2)

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Garrison and Mayotte eliminated

Capriati stuns Sukova again



Becker: struggled past Santoro

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla., March 18. (Reuters): American teenager Jennifer Capriati upset sixth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-2 6-3 for the second consecutive week to advance to the third round of the \$2.55 million International Players Tennis Championships yesterday.

Second-seeded Zina Garrison of the United States was upset by Julie Halard of France 2-6 3-6 4 and men's second seed Boris Becker of West Germany struggled before defeating qualifier Fabrice Santoro of France 6-3 5-7 6-2 in his second-round match of the 96-player tournament.

Top-seeds and defending champions Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and Gabriela Sabatini were both winners.

Lendl struggled but defeated Jens Woermann of West Germany 6-7 (3-7) 6-2 6-1. Sabatini had fewer problems beating Sandra Wasserfall of Belgium 6-3 6-4.

Fifth-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain outlasted South African Dinky van Rensburg 3-6 7-6 (9-7) 7-6 (7-4) in a three-hour and five-minute marathon played almost entirely from the

baseline.

Sixth-seeded Aaron Krickstein was upset by Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland 1-6 7-6 (8-6) 6-3, while eighth-seeded Tim Mayotte fell easily to Soviet Alexander Volkov 6-1 6-4 in other second round matches.

Capriati, who reached the finals of her first professional tournament in Boca Raton, Florida, last week by beating Sukova, said that she was more confident and more cautious this week for that very reason.

"Today, I knew what to expect, but she also knew how to play me this time so I knew I had to play better. I think I played very well today. I wasn't really expecting to win either time, but I'm really happy I did," Capriati said.

Capriati took advantage of very erratic tennis from Sukova as well as nine double-faults, including three in one game, from Sukova's normally reliable serve.

Sukova pounded her heavy topspin groundstrokes and opened the match with a 2-0 lead before Capriati's groundstrokes caught fire and bewildered Sukova by repeatedly hitting the

baseline.

Sukova, 10th in the world, was bewildered by her play and had no explanation for her performance against the teenager.

"I didn't expect to play this badly. I felt I knew what to do, but when you can't hit the ball in the court, that doesn't mean anything," Sukova said.

Garrison, fourth in the world, played two loose forehands and dropped her serve at 4-4 in the final set against Halard, who kept Garrison away from the net most of the match.

Halard, 74th in the world, held her serve in the 10th game to close out the match by waiting for Garrison to force the point and make an error, as she did the entire match.

Other winners included the

third-seeds Stefan Edberg of Sweden and Monica Seles of Yugoslavia and fourth-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria.

Becker, who asked for a spot in the tournament just three days before it began, squandered a match point at 5-4 in the second set when he netted a backhand.

The 165th-ranked Santoro could not contain second-round Becker's serve in the third set.

McAuley outpoints American

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, March 18. (AP): Dave McAuley, scoring almost at will, retained his International Boxing Federation flyweight title yesterday with a unanimous decision over Louis Curtis of the U.S.

On St Patrick's night, the 28-year-old Irish champ received a rapturous welcome from the 7,000 crowd at Belfast's King's Hall and responded by outclassing his opponent from the opening bell.

It was McAuley's first fight at home since winning the title last summer.

Using his superior height and reach, he was in control throughout, switching punches from head to body.

The nearest McAuley came to knocking out Curtis was in the third round when a left hook to the body wobbled the challenger. But Curtis managed to hold on and was saved by the bell.

The three judges made McAuley an easy winner. West Germany's William Gerber gave the champion every one of the 12 rounds, scoring the fight 120-108. American Milton Greene's card had it 119-108 and Ray Francis of Britain scored it 118-109.

McAuley paid tribute to the determination of 32-year-old Curtis, who hadn't fought for 15 months.

"I caught him with some good left hooks and body shots but he was still there," the Irishman said. "You have to hand it to the guy. He took a lot of hard shots. He was a lot stronger than we anticipated."

Curtis came forward for most of the early rounds searching for a target. He couldn't find any range, however, and constantly walked into the champion's punches.

"We thought he would run but he came to fight," said McAuley, whose record improved to 18 wins and two losses after his fifth world title fight. "He did a good job and I take my hat off to him. A lot of fighters crumble under less pressure."

Chavez stops Taylor to retain title

LAS VEGAS, March 18. (Reuters): Mexico's Julio Cesar Chavez overcame a relentless attack by American Meldrick Taylor to score a controversial victory when the referee stopped their fight at two minutes and 58 seconds of the last round last night.

Chavez, 27, boosted his remarkable record to 69-0. He retained his World Boxing Council super lightweight championship and took Taylor's International Boxing Federation title with his last-minute flurry of punches which dropped Taylor to the canvas with less than 10 seconds left in the scheduled 12-round fight.

Chavez was behind on two of the three judges' scorecards and appeared to be headed for the first loss of his 10-year career.

Taylor, 23, consistently beat Chavez to the punch throughout much of the fight, landing considerably more punches. Taylor also copied the champion's usual style by counterpunching with great effectiveness.

Taylor, a bloodied but extremely aggressive fighter throughout the fight, dropped to 24-1-1 with the loss.

Lohaus takes Bucks past Knicks

NEW YORK, March 18. (AP): Brad Lohaus led seven Milwaukee players in double figures with a season-high 23 points as the problem-plagued Bucks defeated the struggling New York Knicks 123-111 last night.

The loss was the fifth in the last seven home games for the Knicks, who started the season by winning 22 of their first 24 games at Madison Square Garden.

Lohaus, who also had 14 rebounds, was starting in place of Jack Sikma, on the injured list with Sciatica. The Bucks also were missing leading scorer Ricky Pierce because of strep

throat and starter Greg Anderson because of an injured left leg.

Patrick Ewing had 37 points for the Knicks, matching a team record with 24 consecutive games scoring 20 or more. Bernard King had 24 straight 20-point games in 1985.

Hawks 119, Bullets 92

Kenny Smith had 22 points and Dominique Wilkins 17 to lead seven double-figure scorers for Atlanta.

Atlanta, which has won two in a row after dropping four straight, led by as many as 28 points in the second quarter, and had 65-43 halftime lead. The Hawks were ahead by as many as 30 in the second half.

The Hawks have lost five straight, matching their worst

slump of the season.

Price scored 17 of his 26 points in the first half and Ewing had 15 of 22, helping Cleveland to a 65-50 halftime lead.

The Cavaliers committed just one turnover in the half while forcing 10 by the Pacers that led to 22 points.

Reggie Miller led Indiana with 30 points.

Results

Atlanta	119	Washington	93
Milwaukee	122	New York	111
Cleveland	118	Indiana	102
LA Lakers	101	Minnesota	99
Chicago	114	Philadelphia	109
San Antonio	111	Miami	98
Sacramento	122	Utah	109

Zhao wins All-England title

LONDON, March 18. (UPI): China's Zhao Jianhua took just 22 minutes to dispatch Indonesian Joko Suprianto 15-4, 15-1 yesterday for the \$10,250 winner's prize in a one-sided men's singles final at the All-England Badminton Championships.

Zhao came off a defeat in the Swedish Open two weeks ago to capture his second All-England title — he beat Morten Frost of Denmark in 1985.

Even so the manner of victory was surprisingly easy as Zhao raced to a 4-0 lead off his third serve hitting two cross court smashes to Suprianto's backhand and one to his forehand before his opponent got on the scoreboard.

Zhao dominated a series of short sharp rallies using his smash well and deceiving Suprianto with disguised drop shots to reach 11-1 and completed the set deadlocked at 10-10.

The Indonesian managed to pull himself together again to take it on the setting and looking for confidence, stretched out a 10-0 lead at the start of the second.

Suprianto, who had defeated second-seeded Malaysian Foo Kok Keong in the quarterfinals and Indonesian competitor Eddy Kurniawan in the semis, was never able to mount a serious challenge.

Zhao demonstrated his full range of shots to stretch a 3-0 lead to 13-0 in the second set. Suprianto held his progress up briefly before he dinked a return into the net for match point and Zhao hammered the championship winning smash down the centre.

It was the fourth time Suprianto and Zhao, joint fifth seeds here, had met and the Wembley result evened the score at 2-2.

Zhao was surprised at the ease of his win.

"We usually have tough controlled games," he said. "This time Joko did not play so well."

"I don't think I played particularly well today, although it looked excellent because he did not play well."

Zhao thought he was playing better in 1985 when he defeated Frost to capture the crown for the first time.

"I am not consistent enough now," he said, adding that winning a major championship could only add to his confidence.

Top-seeded Indonesian Susi Susanti had few problems winning the women's singles, defeating China's Huang Hua, the second seed, 12-11, 11-1.

The victory was doubly sweet for the 19-year-old university student as she was runner up last year and had just seen her compatriot Suprianto win in the men's final.

Susanti playing defensively against the attack-minded Hua, quickly reached 6-0 in the first set, but was clawed back to 6-5 and continued to hand Hua points on uncharacteristic errors as the first set deadlocked at 10-10.

The Indonesian managed to pull herself together again to take it on the setting and looking for confidence, stretched out a 10-0 lead at the start of the second.

After that she just had to wait for winning chances and when it came she put a cross-court backhand out of Hua's reach to clinch the \$6,500 winner's cheque.

"After 10-5, I became too careful with my shots and made mistakes," Susanti said. "But I was surprised the second set was so easy."

Susanti changed her tactics for the second.

"Having won the first, I felt I could make more attacks," said the former world junior champion.

"I went into the game intending not to make mistakes against Hua who is a more attacking player than Zhou Lee (her Chinese opponent in the semifinals).

"My next target is the World Championship," she added.

Indonesian team manager Leo Wiranata said of the champion:

"Indonesia has a very young team which we have been building for four years. It will be at its peak for the 1992 Olympics."

GOLF

Filipino beats compatriot in playoff

SINGAPORE, March 18. (Reuters): Antonio Fernando of the Philippines pulled off his first significant golf victory when he took the Singapore Open after a sudden-death playoff against compatriot Frankie Minoza today.

Fernando forced the playoff with a 12-foot eagle putt that brought him level with Minoza on a total of 273 after the regulation 72 holes.

He then collected the first prize of \$50,000 when Minoza had a double bogey at the par-three second hole of their playoff.

Fernando, who hit the edge of the green with his drive and two-putted for a par, said: "This is my first year in the Asian golf circuit and I'm big win."

Two missed 10-foot birdie putts on the last hole of regulation play and on the first hole of the playoff cost Minoza the title. He won \$34,000.

Final leading scores: 273

Antonio Fernando (Philippines) 67 67 69, Frankie Minoza (Philippines) 70 65 72 66 (Fernando won at second hole of playoff); 274 Choi Sang-Ho (South Korea) 66 68 71 69; 276 Jack Kay (Canada) 71 66 67 72, Park Nam-Sin (South Korea) 69 66 68 73; 277 John Morse (U.S.) 71 67 70 69, Kuo Chie Hsiung (Taiwan) 68 66 69 74, Stewart Cim (Australia) 69 69 66 73.



Chavez (right) swings at Taylor. (Reuters photo).

decision.

Judge Jerry Roth scored the fight 108-101 and Dave Moretti had it 107-102 in favour of Taylor. Judge Chuck Giampa scored the bout 105-104 in favor of Chavez. All three judges are American.

"It was a bad call," Duva said after the fight. "I think he (Steel) screwed up. In a fight of this magnitude, you have to let him go."

"I thought that we won the fight. The referee took the fight away from us. Cesar Chavez is a great champion, but Meldrick Taylor will beat him the next time out," said Duva, who also trains heavyweight contender Evander Holyfield.

"We looked at the tape four times. He got knocked down but he got up at the count of five. Nothing was ever wrong with him out there."

Taylor was taken to hospital suffering from dehydration and cuts.

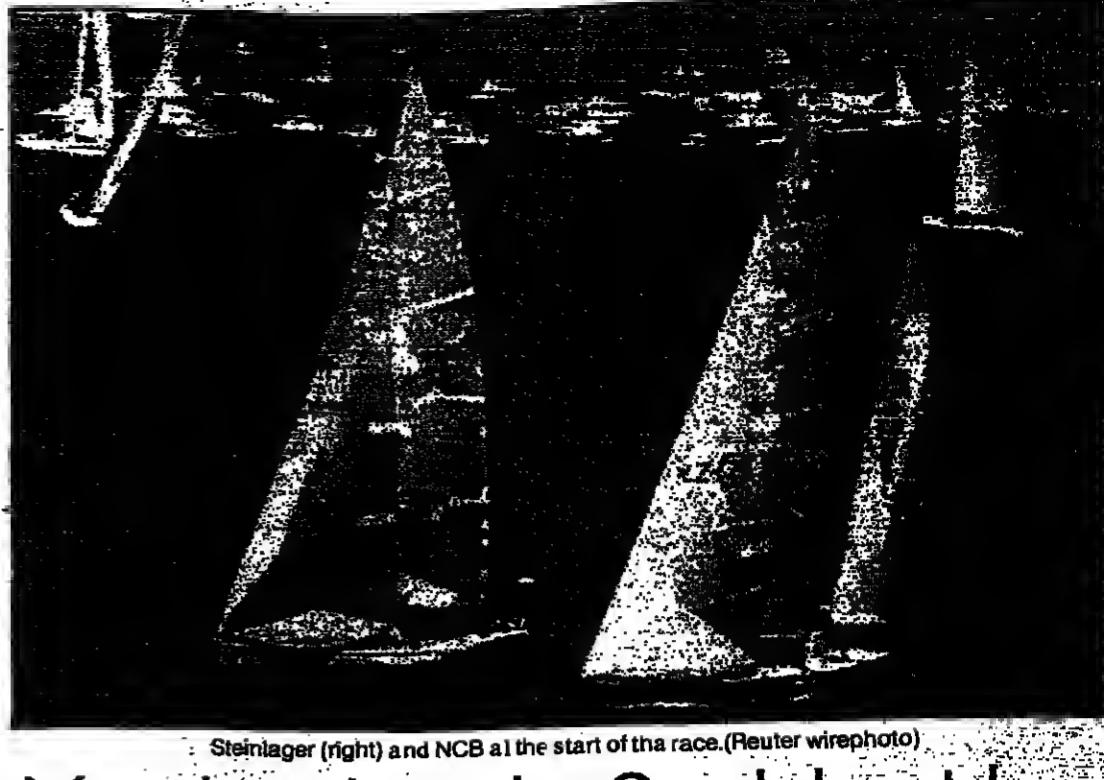
Chavez was asked where he thought he stood entering the final round.

"I was feeling that the fight was even," Chavez said. "I thought I was going to win."

Former champion

Former world heavyweight champion Mohammed Ali (left) kisses a little boy in the lobby of hotel yesterday.

Ali is in Jakarta for a promotional boxing match. (Reuters photo).



Steinlager (right) and NCB at the start of the race. (Reuters photo)

Yachts begin 2nd-last leg

PUNTA DEL ESTE, Uruguay, March 18. (AP): Led by Fisher and Paykel of New Zealand and Rothmans of Britain, a fleet of 22 yachts set sail yesterday on the fifth and next-to-last leg of the Whitbread Round the World Ocean race.

The New Zealand maxi yacht Steinlager II, winner of the first four legs and holder of a more than one day overall lead in the 33,000-nautical-mile (53,800-kilometre) race was well back in eighth place as the vessels sailed out of this South Atlantic resort in 9-knot southeasterly winds.

Fisher and Paykel, in third place overall, and fourth-place Rothmans quickly moved ahead of the rest of the fleet and, neck-and-neck, headed north for Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 5,475 miles

Scotland look to world champs

EDINBURGH, March 18. (Reuters) A triumphant Scotland side travel to world champions New Zealand this year as Europe's rugby union standard-bearers after their stirring 13-7 win over England at Murrayfield yesterday.

No Five nations match had ever had as much at stake as yesterday's clash.

The sides were playing not only for the championship but also the Grand Slam, the Triple Crown and the Calcutta Cup.

And, against the odds, it was the Scots who proved the better side to the understandable jubilation of both players and supporters.

Flyhalf Craig Chalmers, who kicked three vital first-half penalties, spoke for his team mates when he said: "There were some people, especially in the south, who had written us off before the match had even started."

His comments were echoed by coach Ian McGeechan.

"I think the people who had built England up will have to give us at least a little credit now," he said.

Captain David Sole, reaching for the sportsman's book of clichés, added: "The lads were up to the challenge, every single one of them."

For once the stock phrase of every successful captain and manager was apt.

Expected
Scotland's success was a true team effort in which every player made an important contribution.

The front five were expected to capitulate sooner or later to the fearsome England pack and locks Chris Gray and Damian Cronin were given little chance in the lineout.

In the event, the scrum held firm and Gray and Cronin more than held their own against their towering England opponents Wade Dooley and Paul Ackford.

Whatever Gavin Hastings, who has had a low-key championship by his own high standards, set up the try which effectively killed England's chances two minutes after the interval.

Hastings gathered a pass brilliantly one-handed, made ground on the right then put in the perfect centre kick for Tony Stanger to grab the ball high above his head and score.

"It was a beautiful kick ahead — I was just lucky to be able to latch on to it," Stanger said modestly.

Then as England made a series of desperate forays late in the match it was Hastings' brother Scott whose ankle tapped Rory Underwood as the flying England winger appeared to be in the clear.

A bitterly disappointed England captain Will Carting conceded: "They beat us fair and square. They were sharper."

Jeremy Guscott's 15th-minute try — England's first at Murrayfield since they last won the Grand Slam 10 years ago — was a vivid reminder of the speed and sheer class of the England backline.

But it may have done a disservice to England who seemed so intent on winning with style that they forgot some of the game's basic tenets.

At least twice in the first half they were given penalties well within Simon Hodgkinson's range.

Opted
Six points then would have given England the lead but instead they opted to run the ball and both times they were thwarted by sturdy Scots defence.

England also had their heroes, in particular flyhalf Rob Andrew whose line kicking was one of the features of the match.

However, they have learned a bitter lesson here after their demolition jobs on France and Wales and the verdict must remain open on just how good the current side is.

Scotland will name their squad on Tuesday for the New Zealand visit and McGeechan said the tour would continue his side's learning process.

"They are the best and we've got to keep on building for the 1991 World Cup," he said.

After the match ended the Scots players gave yet another rendition of "Flower of Scotland" as they celebrated in the dressing room.

Lamour triumphs

NEW YORK, March 18. (Reuters) Olympic champion Jean-Francois Lamour of France survived an early scare to advance to the finals of the New York International Sabre Tournament yesterday.

Lamour overcame a 4-1 deficit against lightly-regarded Waimon Leung of the United States to win his bout 5-4 and advance to today's round of 64.



Alexander Wurz, youngest competitor, with Emad Habib.



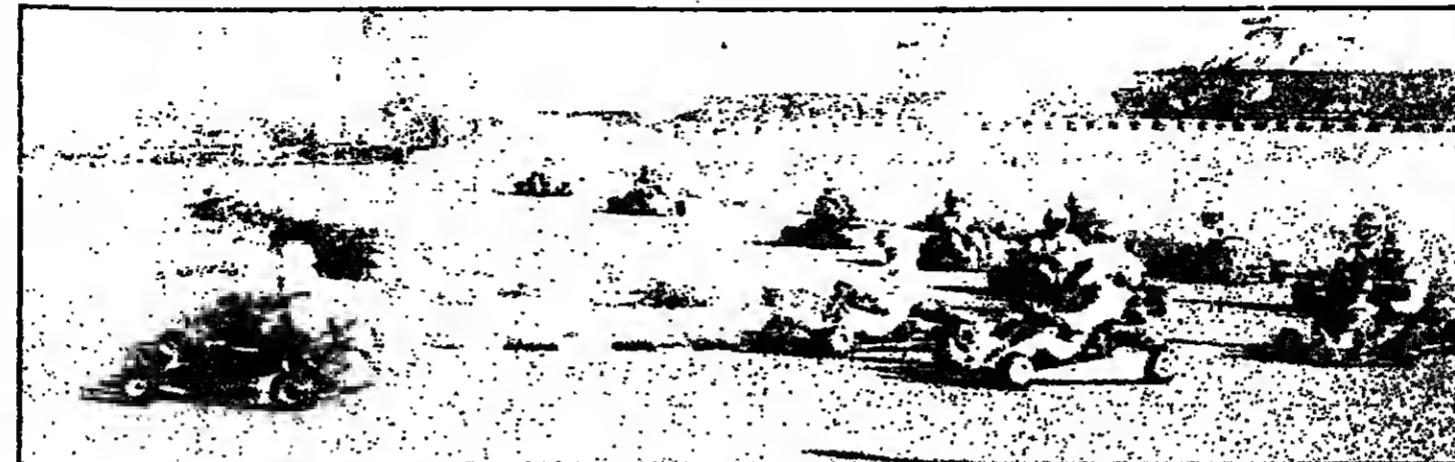
Lloyd with his trophy.



The Caledonian Pipers. (Photos by Khalil Gabr)

Wilkes wins Middle East Kart Championship

Kuwait's Lloyd takes third place



All the drivers in action in the last final.

MIKE WILKES from Dubai won the Middle East Kart Championship, hosted by Kuwait at the Ahmadi Kart Track on Friday. Patrick Walsh, from the UK, took second place while Kuwait's Simon Lloyd was third.

The championship, which was sponsored by the Mahdi Hahib Commercial Establishment, Austrian Airlines and British Airlines, was held over two days with the preliminaries on Thursday and the race proper on Friday.

The championship was preceded by a hectic week of overcoming problems with the clearance of karts from customs upon arrival in Kuwait and the result of the championship proved an even greater feat in view of the Dubai drivers only having their karts released following clearance shortly before mid-day on the day prior to the race.

Austrian driver Alexander Wurz, who at 16 years of age was the youngest competitor in the championships had arrived in Kuwait on Monday, and had secured, with the help of one of his sponsors, Austrian Airlines, swift release of his kart thus enabling immediate practice at Ahmadi.

The United Kingdom driver Patrick Walsh arrived one day later on Tuesday, and again with considerable help from British Airways, was able to clear his kart for early practice. Patrick is, in karting circles, a well known member of the John Mills Racing Stable. Patrick was assisted by John's son, Mike Mills who won the championship at Ahmadi in 1988, and whose inside knowledge of the circuit was no doubt of invaluable assistance to his driver.

The meeting started with the first heat with David Haines representing Kuwait in No. 2 kart in the pole position and Rudi Joustra in kart No. 4 from Dubai in antipole. There was excitement

immediately after the start when Patrick Walsh in No. 20 came into contact with Alexander Wurz in No. 23 and kart numbers 13, 11, 9 and 77 all became entangled in what looked like a battlefield allowing Kuwait's Ray Washer in kart No. 10 to slip through into fourth place. All karts managed to restart except No. 13, Kuwait driver Peter Wakely, whose kart was damaged. David Haines, who missed the melee at the start led all the way from Rudi Joustra and his fellow Dubai driver Mike Wilkes, despite a spirited drive by Patrick Walsh. Casualties were the karts of Kieran Dick and James Langer who failed to start and John Ogilvie who made an unplanned exit to the pits when his brakes failed on the straight.

In heat 2 again the karts of Langer and Dick could not complete the warm up laps and David Wheeler in Kuwait kart No. 15 seized his engine and retired on the 1st lap. The battle was on for the lead between Kuwait's Simon Lloyd in kart No. 1 and Patrick Walsh in No. 20 until the 5th lap when both karts came into contact on the banked bend and antipole.

The meeting started with the first heat with David Haines representing Kuwait in No. 2 kart in the pole position and Rudi Joustra in kart No. 4 from Dubai in antipole. There was excitement

Lloyd spun off. The order then changed to Walsh, Wilkes and another Dubai driver, Saeed Hussain which remained the finishing order. Kuwait drivers Baha Akl in No. 22, Tom Colcock in No. 16 and Tom Bollig in No. 11 had a fine race finishing in 4th, 5th and 6th place respectively.

In heat 3, the race started with Haines, Lloyd and Hussain in the first three places and despite hard pressure from Wurz, again was the finishing order. Joustra snatched 3rd from Hussain only to be retaken before the line.

In the interval before the final, the crowd of spectators that had grown to well over a thousand, were entertained by the stirring Scottish bagpipe music of the Caledonian Pipers in their national dress.

The opportunity was also taken by the drivers to change the engines and make alterations or repairs to their karts before they went back to the grid. Unlike the heats, all the remaining 20 karts had to be on the track at the same time and the competition was obviously going to be fierce.

The first final started with

Haines on pole and Lloyd on antipole. Haines again led the field all the way despite pressure from Wilkes, Lloyd and Walsh with 2nd and 3rd and 4th places changing hands three times in the first four laps. Langer and fellow novice driver Mike Rees of Kuwait were early retirements with mechanical problems and Bollig caused some uneasy moments when his throttle jammed open and he left the track airborne, fortunately he escaped with only bruises.

The final No. 2 saw Lloyd and Haines again on pole and antipole with Bollig, Dick and Wheeler as non-starters. The battle immediately commenced between Haines and Walsh with Joustra in third, and a midfield tussle between Baha Akl, Niel Gardiner and Peter Wakely soon developed.

In the 6th lap Haines and Walsh made contact on the bottom bend which threw Haines into the air and caused the race to be stopped. Haines suffered a broken foot in the accident and was forced to retire. A great disappointment for David after an excellent day's racing.

At the end of the third final, the Caledonian Pipers again entertained the spectators while the drivers prepared themselves for

the international team event.

Teams were entered for Dubai Kart Club, Mahdi Hahib, Mesilah Beach Hotel and Kuwait's C team.

The drama started on the warm-up lap when Walsh lost a wheel but managed to repair it and rejoin the race which was comfortably won by Duhamel because Ogilvie was unceremoniously shunted off at the hairpin.

Trophies for the Middle East Kart Championship and the international team event were presented by KOC general superintendent of admin. & community services, Mohammed Saleh and Emad Mahdi Habib.

The day ended with a ladies race as the sun went down. Eight ladies got off to a great start with Sandra Gardiner taking an early

lead from Edith Kashkoush and Gilly Colclough. The lead developed into a spirited race between Gardiner and Kashkoush who both took turns at the front, but the flag was taken in superb style by Gardiner with Kashkoush second and Colclough third.

Ahmad Kart Racing Committee wish to express their thanks to KOC, Mahdi Hahib Commercial Est, British Airways and Austrian Airways, who all assisted in making the event possible.

KTV 2, who were present throughout the day, will be showing highlights of the racing on the "Weekend" programme next Friday and video recordings of the racing compiled by the Kuwait Players video unit can be obtained through David Burfoot on 5732956.



An action shot of the race.



Patrick Walsh



Haines receives treatment.



Drivers at the start point.

Unemployed gambler blackmailing Yankees owner

Boca Juniors win

NEW YORK, March 18. (AP) New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner is being blackmailed by an unemployed gambler who was involved in his legal battle with outfielder Dave Winfield and to whom he paid \$40,000, according to the New York Daily News.

In Sunday's editions, the News said Steinbrenner admitted paying the money to Jan G. to Howard Spira. Spira gave Steinbrenner information to use in his suit against Winfield, but Steinbrenner said that was not the reason for the payoff.

The paper said Spira signed an agreement promising never to disclose the payoff but has threatened to make it public, along with their tape-recorded conversations, unless Steinbrenner

gives him an additional \$10,000 and a job at his American Shipbuilding Co. in Tampa, Florida.

Steinbrenner, in turn, has accused Spira of "extortion in its purest form" and Spira is under investigation by the FBI, which raided the Bronx, New York, apartment where he lives and seized tapes, legal documents and other records.

"If it was stupidity on my part, then it was," the News quoted Steinbrenner as saying in an interview yesterday. "But I honest to God felt that I could help this young man to get his life straight."

The Daily News said it listened to the tapes and quoted Steinbrenner as telling Spira in a

March 2 phone call: "I offered you some money. You said, 'no, George, just give me this much more, just give me a little more, give me 40.' All right I went against everybody's advice. I gave you the 40 to try and help you and they said, they told me: 'Sure as hell, he'll be back trying to get more out of you.' And damned if you didn't."

"And then they come in and they tell me, 'hey, he's saying he's going to take the tapes and he's going to the papers, and he's gonna do this and he's gonna do that.' I said, 'he can't do that, I gave him money to help him. And I'm not going to give him any more.'"

Spira, on the other hand, says Steinbrenner "promised me the world — a job in Tampa,

money, room and board, anything I wanted — to help bring down Dave."

Steinbrenner denied promising Spira anything, telling the news: "I did it (paid Spira) because I cared about this guy, who in my opinion was a lost human being who cried about his losses, having used all of their money, who cried about the gamblers ... the reason I did it was absolutely out of the goodness of my heart, no other reason. I said, 'Howard, go and try to start your life over.'

"I did it against the advice of my people. I was wrong. They were right. That's all I can tell you. I look stupid for trusting a young guy, for trying to help a young guy."

MIAMI, March 18. (Reuters) Boca Juniors of Argentina defeated Atletico Nacional of Colombia 1-0 (1-0 half) last night in a South American Football Confederation (Conmebol) tournament matching past and present champions.

Forward Diego Latorre scored the only goal in the 33rd minute on a brilliant individual effort. Latorre dribbled into the left side of the penalty area, and as goalkeeper Rene Higuita, who deflected the ball quickly and fired another shot, but this one went wide to the left of the goal. In the closing moments of the match, Latorre broke in on Higuita again, but his shot was off the mark.

Atletico Nacional earned a berth in the tournament by winning the 1989 Copa Libertadores (Liberators' Cup), the annual South American Club Championship.

Boca Juniors had qualified for the final of the tournament by winning this year's South American Super Cup, a tournament for past winners of the Copa Libertadores.

Valckx saves PSV from defeat

AMSTERDAM, March 18. (Reuters) Defender Stans Valckx saved Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven from an embarrassing home defeat against FC Twente with a freak goal in injury time yesterday.

Twente took the lead in the seventh minute through striker Jan Gaasbeek and came close to their first win in Eindhoven in over a decade.

PSV's Brazilian striker Romario, out for the rest of the season with a broken leg, was sorcerously missed as Flemming Povlsen, Gerald Vanenburg and Juul Ellerman failed to find room for a decisive break through Twente's tough defence.

A last desperate attack well into injury-time finally saved the day for the Eindhoven side as Valckx slotted home a pass from Vanenburg.

But the 1-1 result was anything but reassuring ahead of Wednesday's European Cup quarterfinal return leg at home to Bayern Munich, in which PSV need to overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit.

PSV lead the Dutch table with 36 points from 26 matches, followed by Ajax, who travelled to Utrecht today, with 33 points from 24 games.



World Cup overall skiing champions



Men's and women's World Cup overall skiing champions. Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland (left) and Austria's Petra Kronberger hold their trophies aloft after the last race of the season on Sunday in Are, Sweden. Right: winners of Saturday's World Cup downhill race

SPORTS

Bracewell takes six wickets for 85

Kiwis set 178 to beat Aussies



Bracewell took last four wickets off 19 balls

Marseille move closer to leaders

PARIS, March 18, (Reuter): A hat-trick from Marseille's predatory striker Jean-Pierre Papin brought last year's double winners within a single point of French League leaders Bordeaux yesterday.

Papin took his tally to 24 for the season when he grabbed all the goals in a 3-0 home win over Toulon, following the brace he scored only three days ago in a 2-0 away win to Sochaux.

With Bordeaux dropping their first home point of the season in a goalless draw with Monaco on Thursday, Marseille closed the gap to a single point and they still have a game in hand on their rivals.

But Papin apart, Marseille's performance in the Mediterranean derby was hardly encouraging four days before their European Cup quarterfinal second leg with Celta Vigo even though they won the away leg 1-0.

Results

Lyon	4	Brest	0
Marseille	3	Toulon	0
Metz	1	Moulineau	0
Mulhouse	0	Caen	1
Nantes	1	UBB	0
Paris	2	Racing Paris	1
PSG	5	Caen	0
Toulouse	0	Socxas	0

Played on Thursday:
Auxerre 2 St Etienne 0
Bordeaux 0 Monaco 0

Campbell takes revenge — 14 years on

Chelsea beat Arsenal



Tony Cottee



Tony Cascarino

up our season — we were very inconsistent.

The fans, who jeered Graham's decision to bring off striker Kevin Campbell late in the game, were clearly unhappy.

Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal's north London neighbours, were also nursing wounds inflicted by West Londoners, going down 3-1 at Queen's Park Rangers who could have scored more.

Norwich drew 1-1 with relegation-threatened Millwall but the

match turned bad in the 61st minute when Norwich's Robert Fleck and Millwall's Steve Wood were sent off for fighting.

For several disgruntled strikers, Saturday proved a time to remind their managers just what they could do.

Transfer-listed Tony Cottee scored a brace as Everton beat Crystal Palace 4-0 while Manchester City's one-time England international Clive Allen returned to the first team after two months out and hit a penalty in

more.

"There could still be possibly

Europe to aim for and you have to give your fans value for

money. But this result summed

it

up for us — we were very inconsistent."

Arsenal manager George Graham, whose team conceded the

64th-minute goal against the run of play, was clearly shaken.

"I never think about the title. I

didn't last year when we won it

but if you can't win it you have to

keep playing for your professional pride and finish as high as

possible," he said.

"There could still be possibly

Europe to aim for and you have to

give your fans value for

money. But this result summed

it

up

it

up